三国志 ㊱

漢中侵攻軍

横山光輝

希望コミックス 109

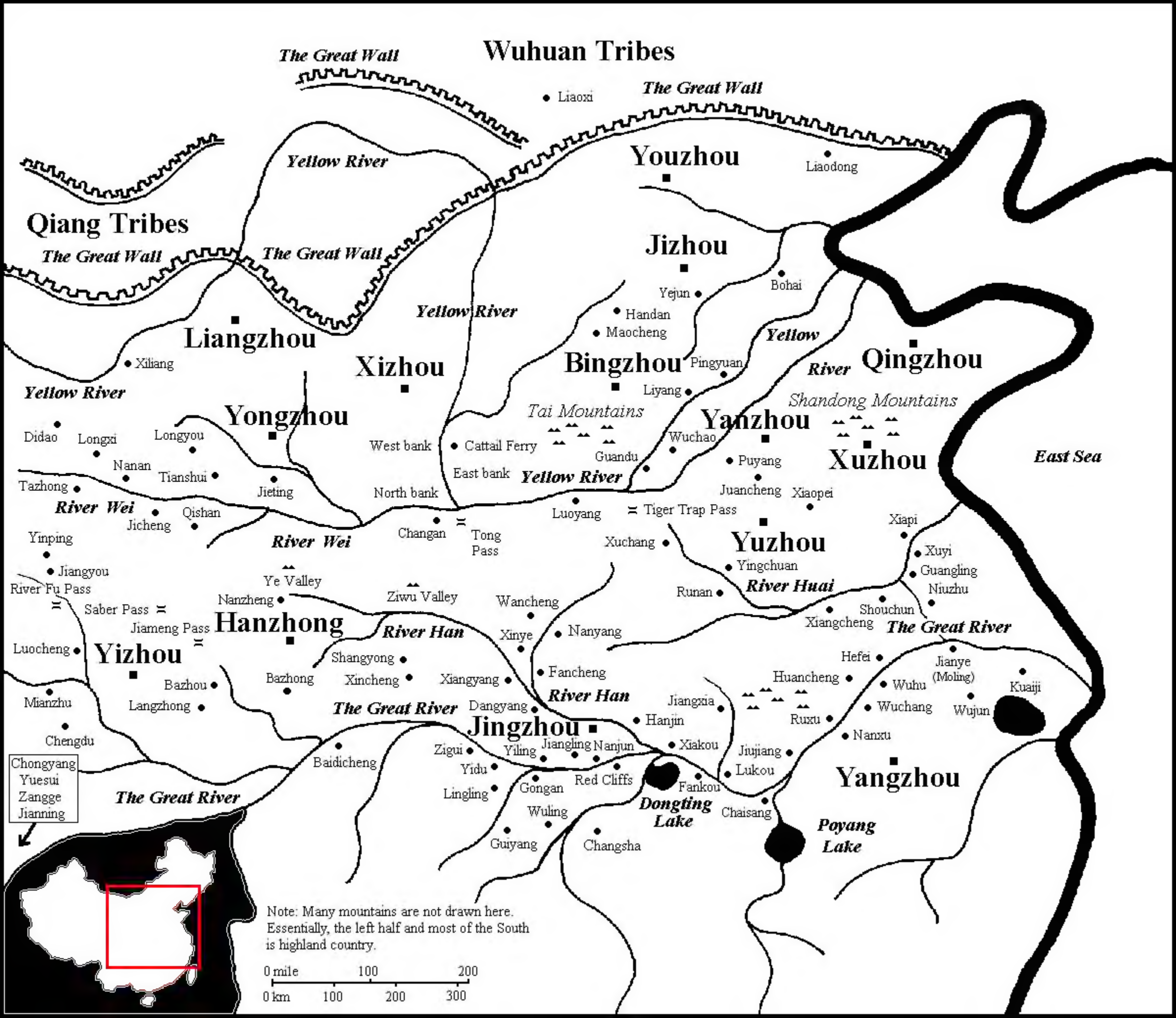
SANGOKUSHI

36

HANZHONG
CAMPAIGN

YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

GUAN YU YUNCHANG


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CAO REN:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU SU:
MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. DUE TO AN ILLNESS, HE REMAINED IN HANZHONG AND COULD NOT ACCOMPANY MA CHAO TO SHU, AND CONSEQUENTLY NOT ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTHLANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. HE PROVIDED MA CHAO REFUGE WHEN HE WAS DEFEATED BY CAO CAO AT WEI RIVER.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 36
HANZHONG CAMPAIGN

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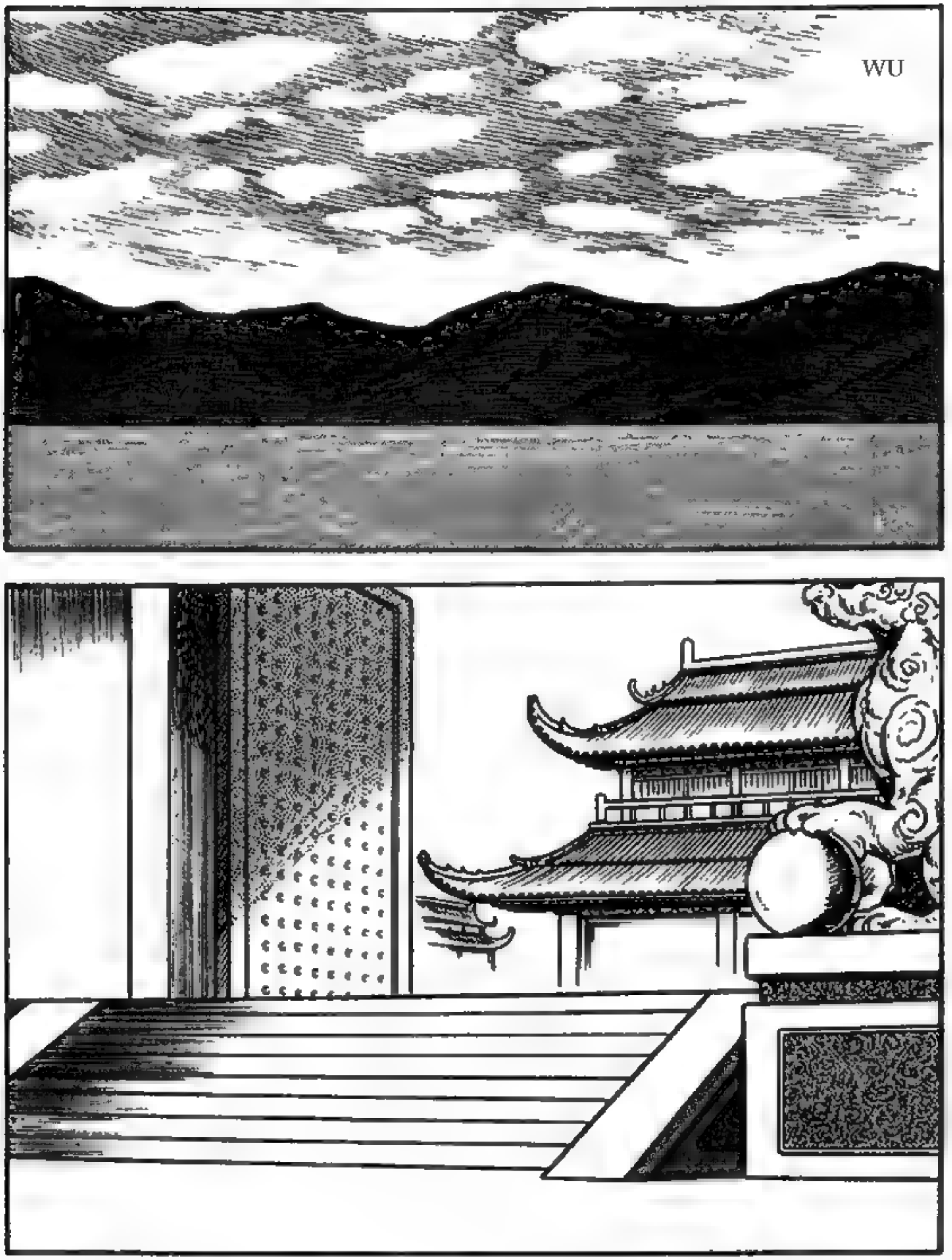
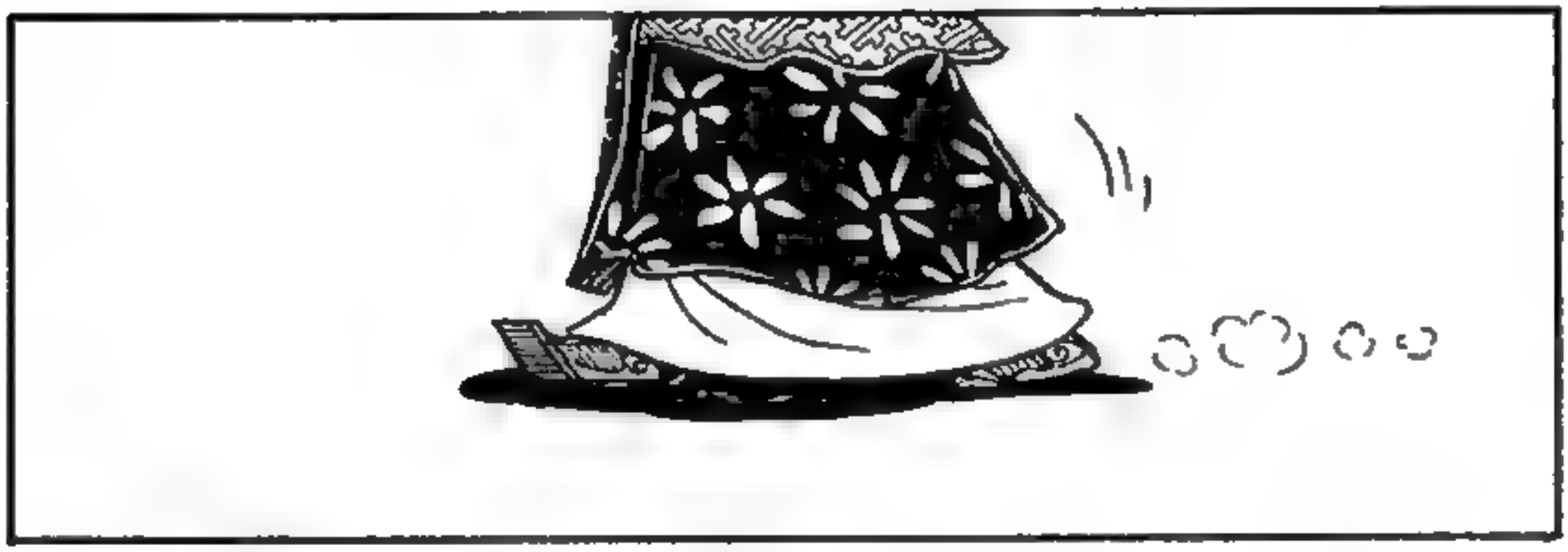
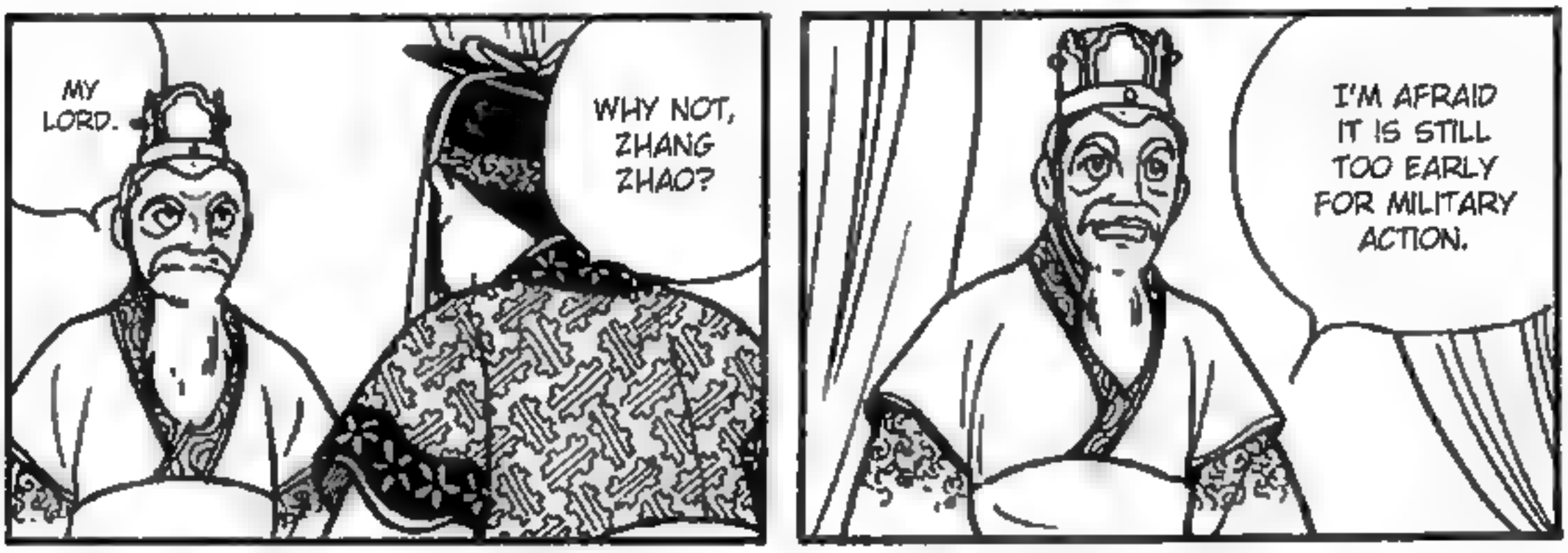
〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

LINJIANG PAVILLION





BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD FROM HIM YET! I HAVE HALF A MIND TO JUST INVADE JINGZHOU WITH MY ARMY AND TAKE IT BY FORCE! WHAT DO YOU MEN THINK?
IT APPEARS LIU BEI HAS FINISHED HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. DID HE NOT ONCE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD RETURN JINGZHOU TO ME AT LAST IF HE OBTAINED SHU?


MY LORD.
WHY NOT, ZHANG ZHAO?
I'M AFRAID IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR MILITARY ACTION.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE A PLAN.

YOU DO?

SIMPLY WAITING ISN'T GOING TO HELP US GET JINGZHOU HOWEVER.

IT WAS ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO THAT WE STOPPED ANOTHER OF CAO CAO'S ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OUR SOUTHLANDS. WE MUST RECUPERATE A LITTLE LONGER.

AS YOU KNOW, LIU BEI UTTERLY RELIES ON ZHUGE LIANG. THUS, I SUGGEST YOU SEND YOUR RETAINER ZHUGE JIN, BROTHER TO ZHUGE LIANG, AS A MESSENGER.

ZHUGE JIN WILL TELL LIU BEI THAT IF JINGZHOU IS NOT RETURNED TO WU, HE AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE SUMMARILY EXECUTED.

MERELY A BLUFF TO PRESSURE THE OTHER SIDE, MY LORD.

B-BUT ZHUGE JIN HAS PROVEN TO BE A MOST LOYAL RETAINER! HOW COULD I RUTHLESSLY EXECUTE HIM AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY!?

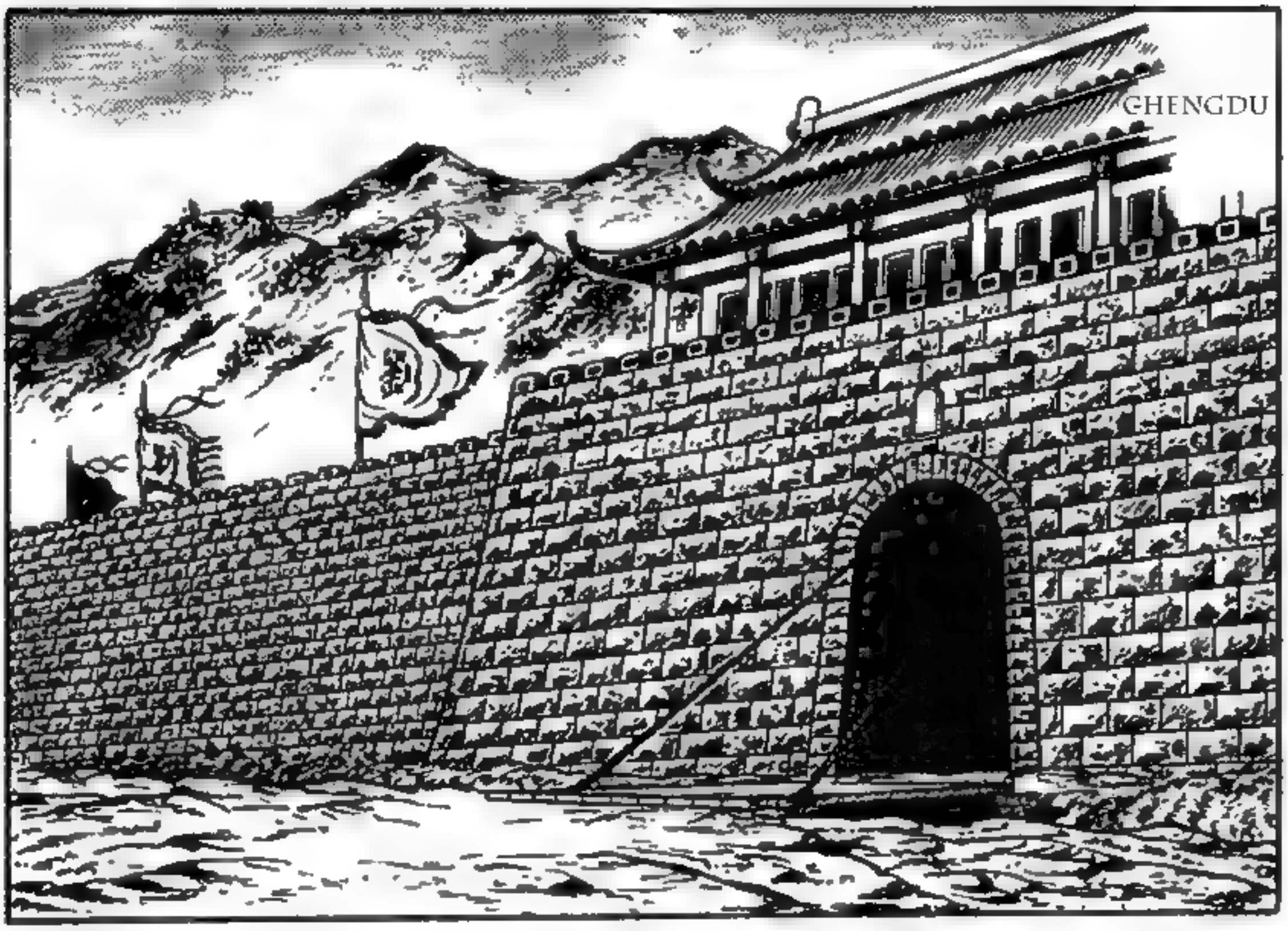
CALL ZHUGE JIN HERE.

I SEE, ATTACK LIU BEI'S SENSE OF DUTY...

KONGMING WILL BE TORN BY HIS LOVE FOR HIS BROTHER, AS WILL LIU BEI FOR BURDENING HIS LOYAL SUBJECT.

YES, SIR.

ZHUGE JIN THUS LEFT FOR SHU AS SUN QUAN'S MESSENGER.

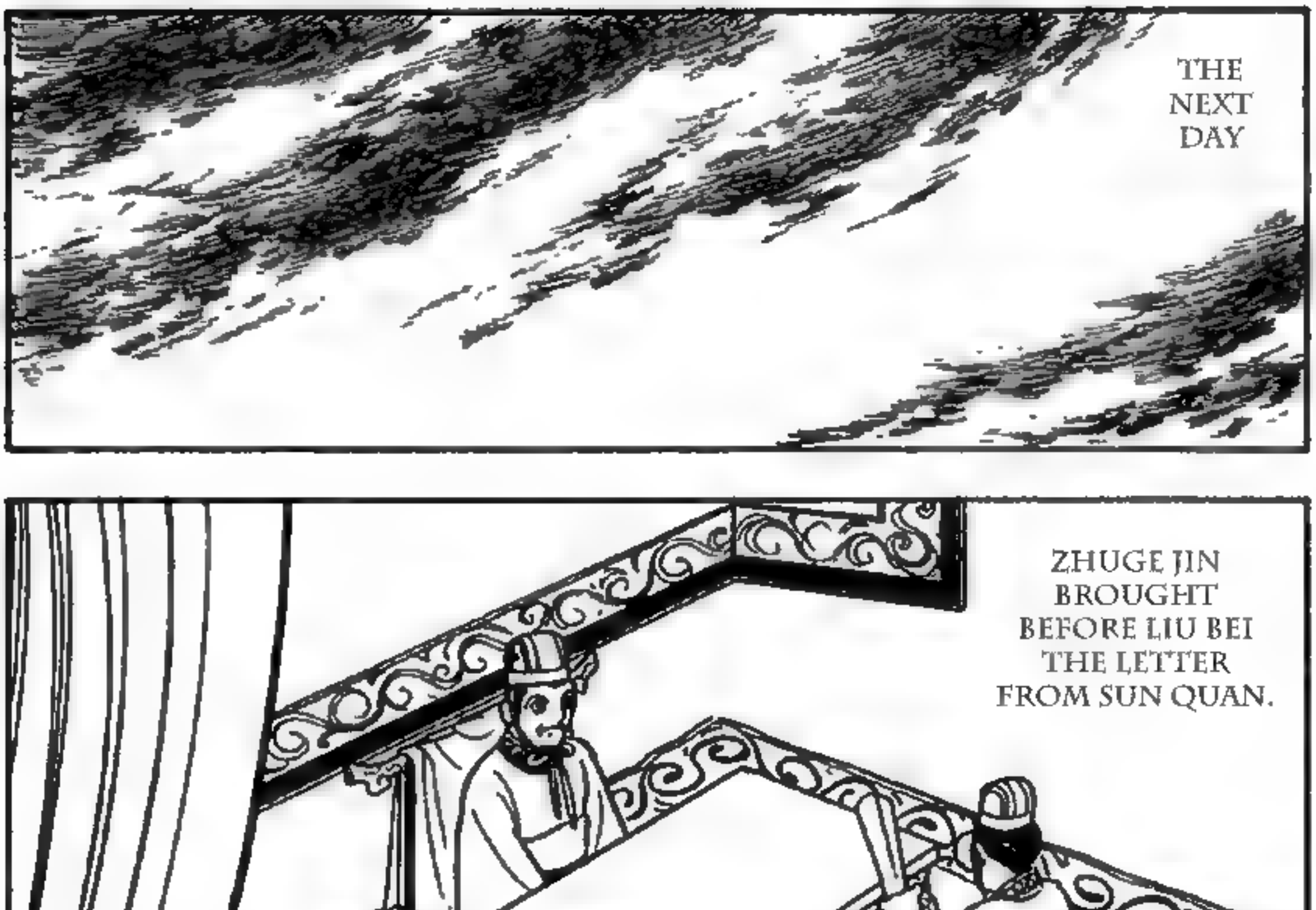

CHENGDU

HAVE YOU NOT MET UP YET?

BROTHERS WE MAY BE, BUT I AM A SERVANT OF SHU, WHILE HE IS A SERVANT OF WU. OUR DUTIES COME BEFORE PERSONAL AFFAIRS.

HE SUPPOSEDLY ARRIVED LAST NIGHT.
I HEAR YOUR BROTHER HAS ARRIVED, KONGMING.

FOR JINGZHOU, NO DOUBT.
SO THEN... WHY DO YOU THINK HE HAS COME?
WORRY NOT, MY LORD.
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH SINCE SHU IS NOW UNDER MY CONTROL. WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?
HMM, I SEE...
FIRST, YOU SHOULD... WHISPER WHISPER


THE NEXT DAY
ZHUGE JIN BROUGHT BEFORE LIU BEI THE LETTER FROM SUN QUAN.
THE NERVE OF THAT BOOR!
NGHHH-

I HAVE ALWAYS INTENDED TO MAKE GOOD ON MY PROMISE! BUT HOW HAS SUN QUAN TREATED ME IN THE MEANTIME!?

IF THAT SPOILED BRAT WANTS JINGZHOU SO BADLY, THEN LET HIM TRY AND TAKE IT BY FORCE! I'LL HAVE HIM KNOW THAT I HAVE ALL THE WEALTH AND MANPOWER OF SHU'S 41 COUNTIES BEHIND ME NOW!

WHILE I WAS BUSY IN SHU, HE DECEIVES MY WIFE AND TAKES HER AWAY FROM ME! AS A MAN AND A HUSBAND, I CANNOT FORGIVE NOR FORGET THIS AFFRONT TO MY HONOUR!

LAST NIGHT, MY ELDER BROTHER TOLD ME THAT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE CURRENTLY IMPRISONED BACK IN WU.

WAIT JUST A MOMENT, MY LORD!

HOW CAN I CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS WORLD, IF I WERE TO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THE DEATHS OF MY BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY...?

AND THE MOMENT HE RETURNS TO WU WITHOUT JINGZHOU IS THE MOMENT THEIR HEADS WILL FLY...

WHILE I UNDERSTAND YOUR PREDICAMENT, SUN QUAN INFURIATES ME TOO MUCH FOR ME TO SIMPLY ACQUIESCE TO HIS DEMANDS.

MNN...

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BE A REASONABLE DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS ON ZHUGE JIN'S PART.

BUT CONSIDERING YOUR INVALUABLE SERVICE UNTIL NOW, I WILL COMPROMISE. INSTEAD OF RETURNING ALL OF JINGZHOU, I WILL GIVE JUST CHANGSHA, LINGLING, AND GUIYANG FOR NOW.

THEN LET ME WRITE A LETTER TO GUAN YU.

I AM MOST GRATEFUL.

SHOW THIS TO GUAN YU TO HAVE HIM RELINQUISH THESE THREE TERRITORIES TO WU.

ZHUGE JIN IMMEDIATELY LEFT FOR JINGZHOU WITH THIS LETTER IN HAND.

JING-
ZHOU

AS YOU CAN SEE, I HOPE YOU WILL EXPRESSLY TURN OVER THE CONTROL OF THESE THREE COMMANDERIES TO WU.

HMM...

I HAVE SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH MY LORD TO HELP HIS MISSION OF RESTORING THE HAN. AS PART OF THAT MISSION, I HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH DEFENDING JINGZHOU. WHAT KIND OF DEFENDER GOES AROUND GIVING AWAY TERRITORY!?

I REFUSE.

YOU WHAT?

AS THE ART OF WAR STATES, *"A GENERAL OUT ON THE FIELD MUST CARRY OUT HIS MISSION EVEN IF HIS KING PROTESTS."*

B-BUT THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER FROM YOUR VERY LORD!

P-PLEASE BE REASONABLE, GENERAL!

I SUSPECT THIS LETTER IS A MERE RUSE BY SUN QUAN. DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD BE SO EASILY FOOLED!?

OR DO YOU WISH MY BLADE TO PROVE MY REASONING?

SILENCE!

CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY TO STILL HAVE YOUR HEAD!

I KNOW. OTHERWISE, I WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM ALREADY.

FATHER, YOU MUSTN'T! HE IS COMMANDER KONGMING'S ELDER BROTHER.

NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

ZHUGE JIN THUS TURNED TO CHENGDU ONCE MORE.

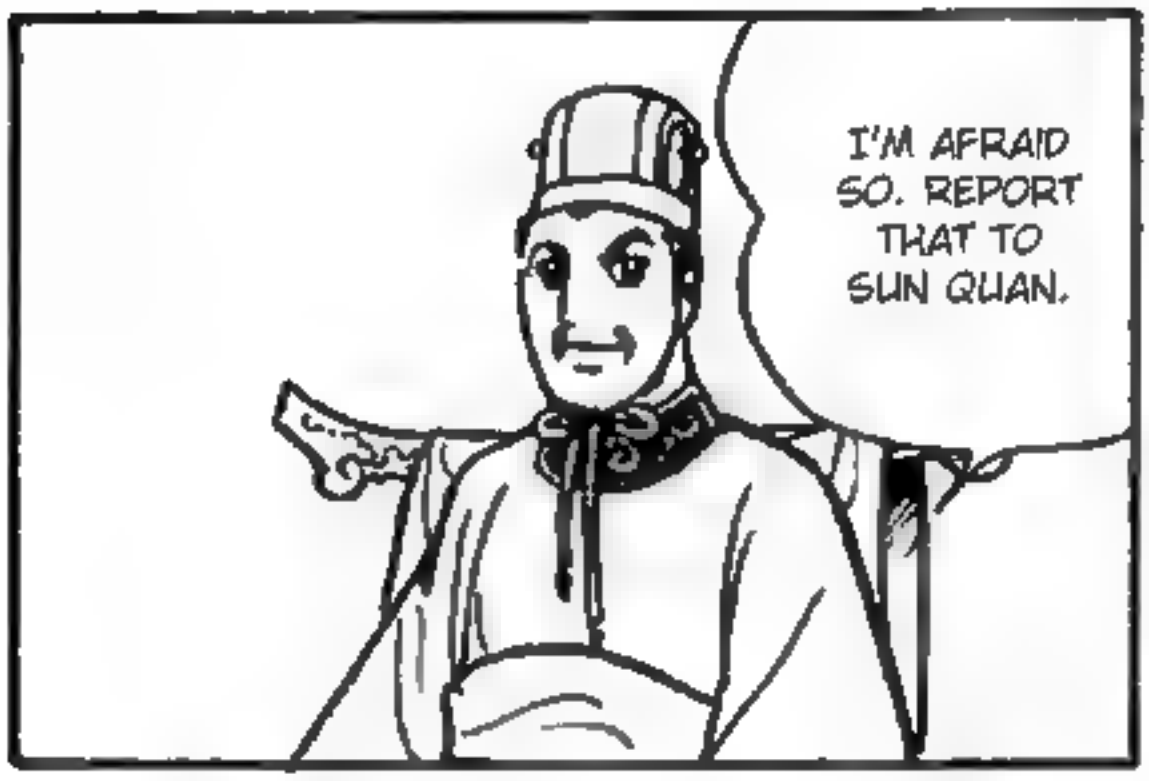
HOWEVER, HIS BROTHER WAS OUT ON PROVINCE INSPECTION DUTIES

AND SO HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PLEAD TO LIU BEI ALONE

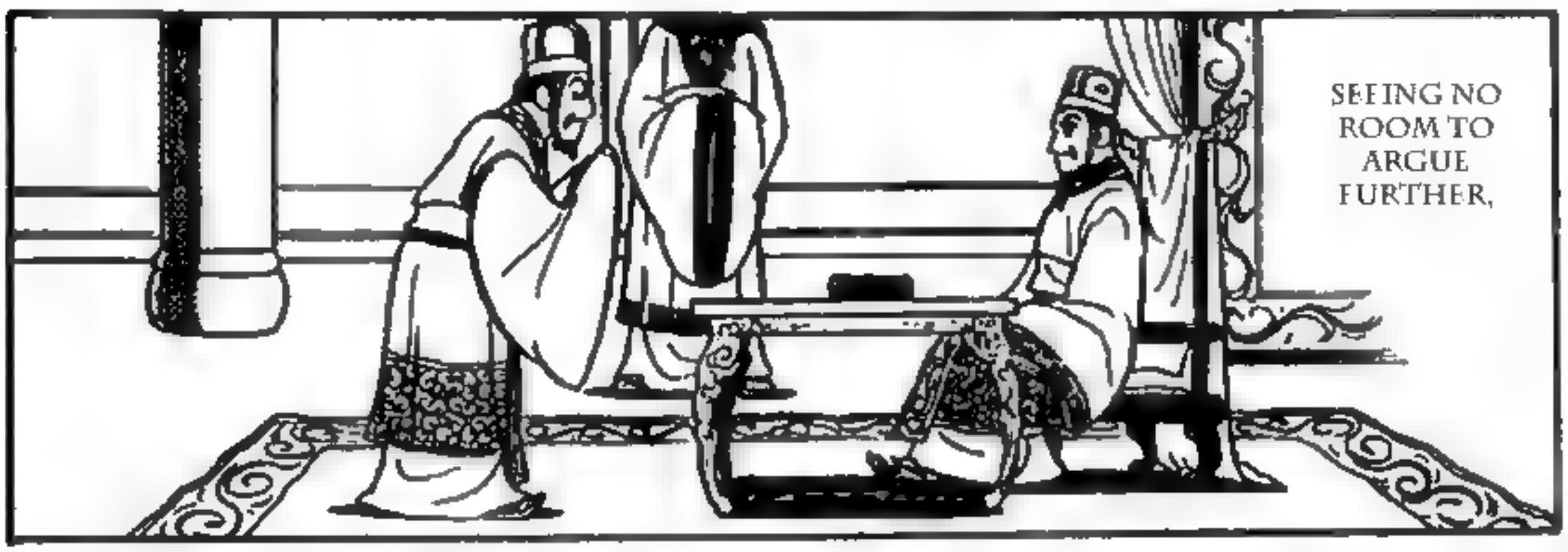
MY BROTHER CAN BE QUITE STUBBORN ABOUT SUCH THINGS. THIS IS RATHER TROU-BLESOME...

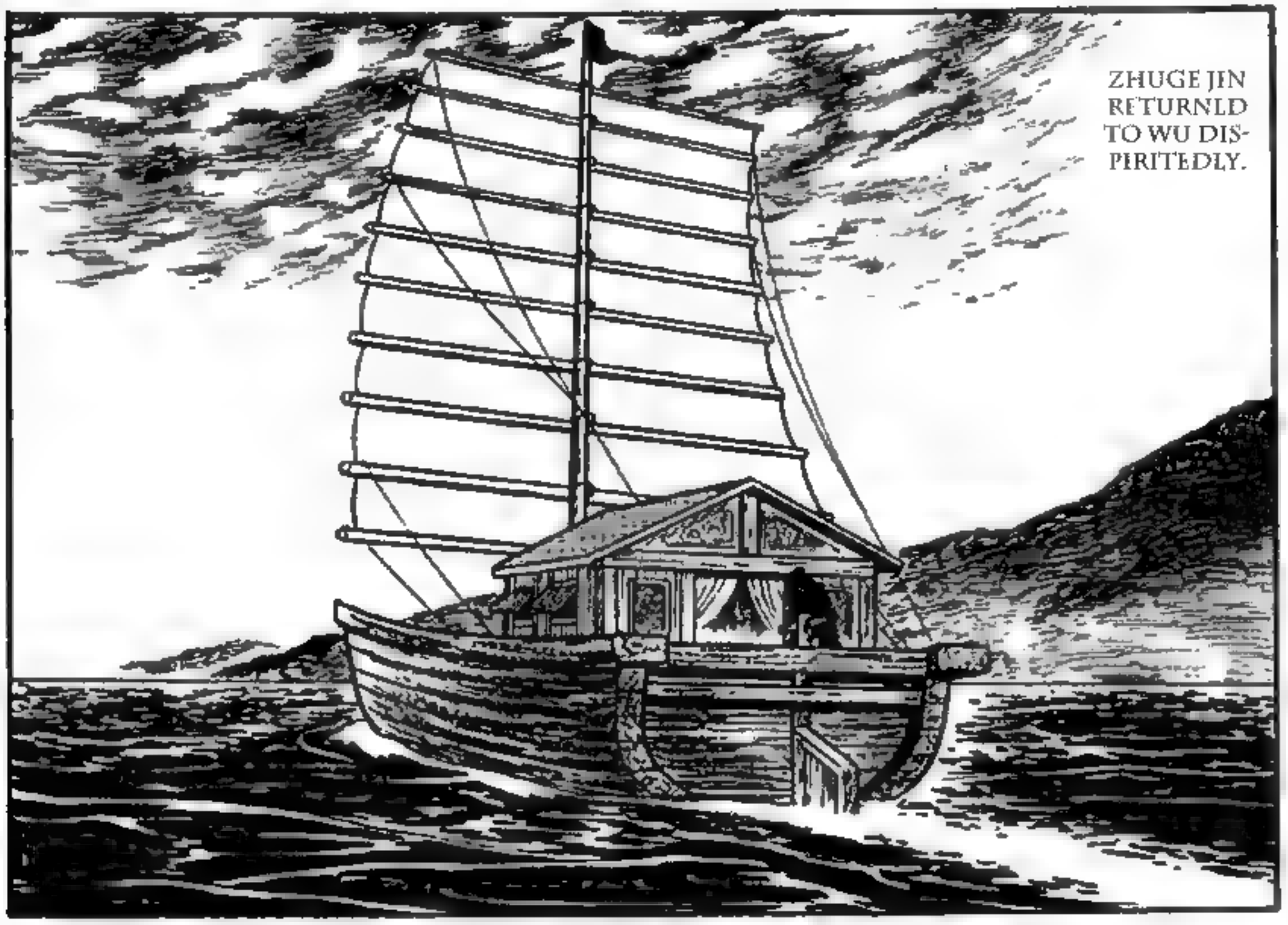
IS THAT HOW GUAN YU RESPONDED?

HOW ABOUT THIS THEN? I SHALL CONQUER HANZHONG AND APPOINT GUAN YU AS ITS DEFENDER. THEN THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL WITH RETURNING JINGZHOU.


I'M AFRAID SO. REPORT THAT TO SUN QUAN.

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO WAIT UNTIL THEN...?


SEEING NO ROOM TO ARGUE FURTHER,


ZHUGE JIN RETURNLD TO WU DIS-PIRITEDLY.

WU

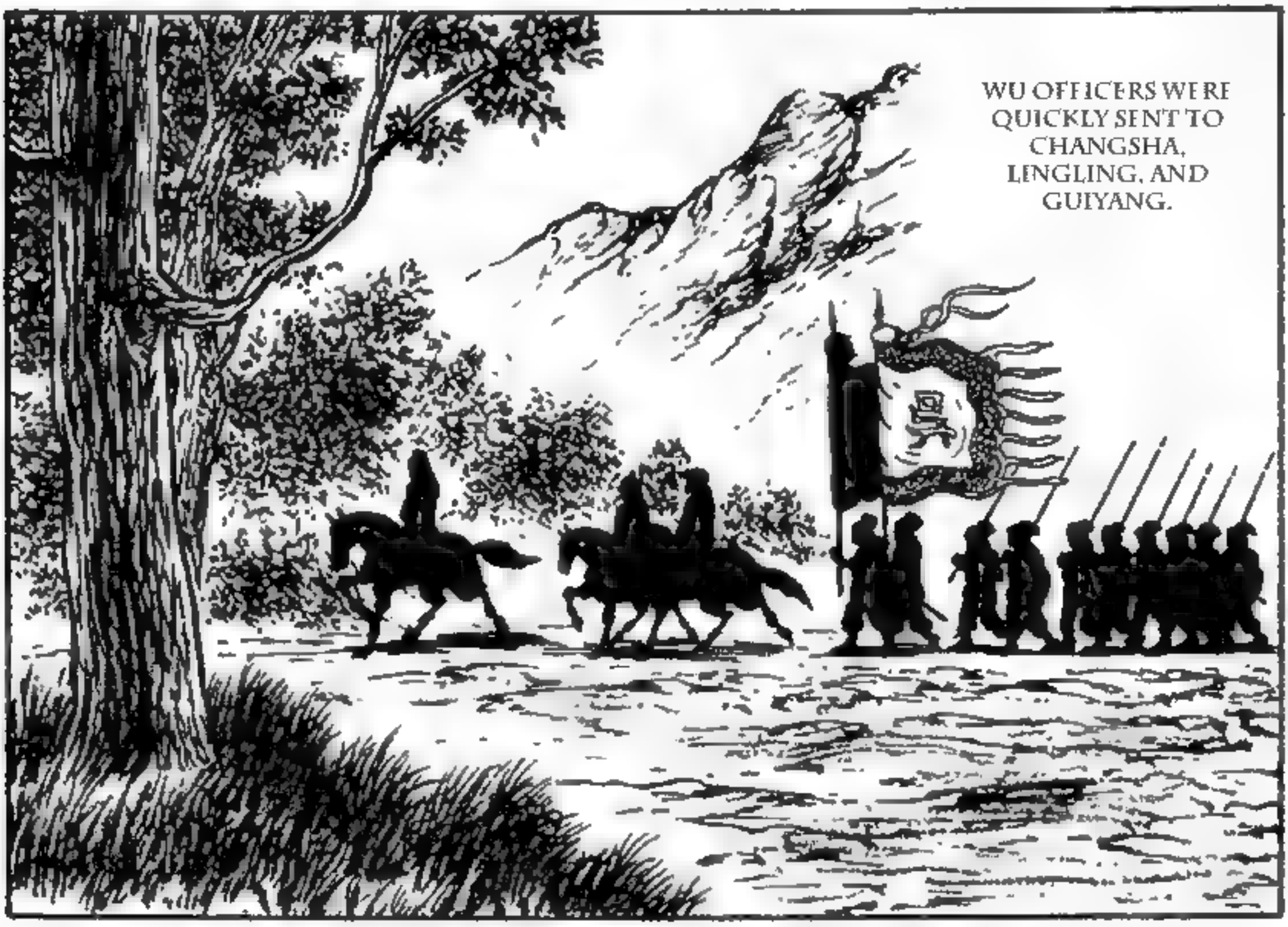
YES.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT GUAN YU REFUSED TO FOLLOW LIU BEI'S ORDERS!?

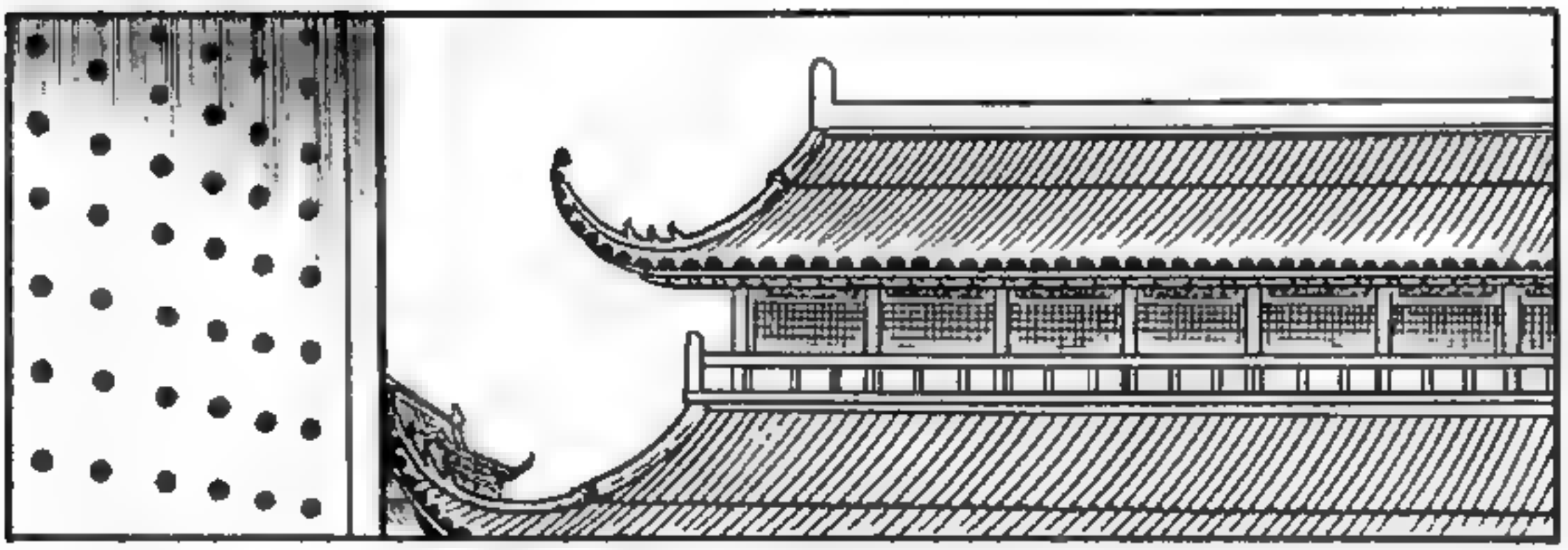
HMM, THIS ALL SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER ONE OF KONGMING'S TRICKS...

APPOINT OFFICIALS TO TAKE OVER!

YES, SIR.

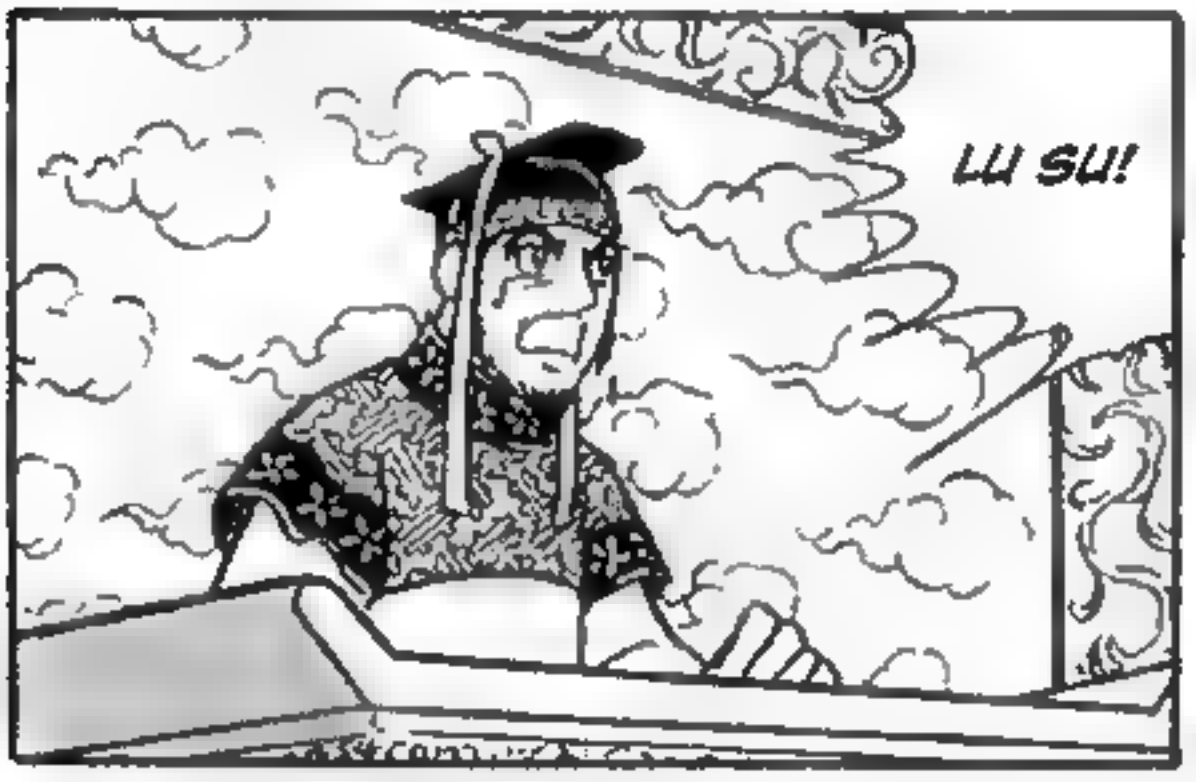
BUT IF LIU BEI HAS FORMALLY RELINQUISHED THOSE THREE COMMANDERIES, THEN PERHAPS WE CAN TAKE OVER JUST ITS ADMINIS-TRATION FOR NOW.


WU OFFICERS WERE QUICKLY SENT TO CHANGSHA, LINGLING, AND GUIYANG.

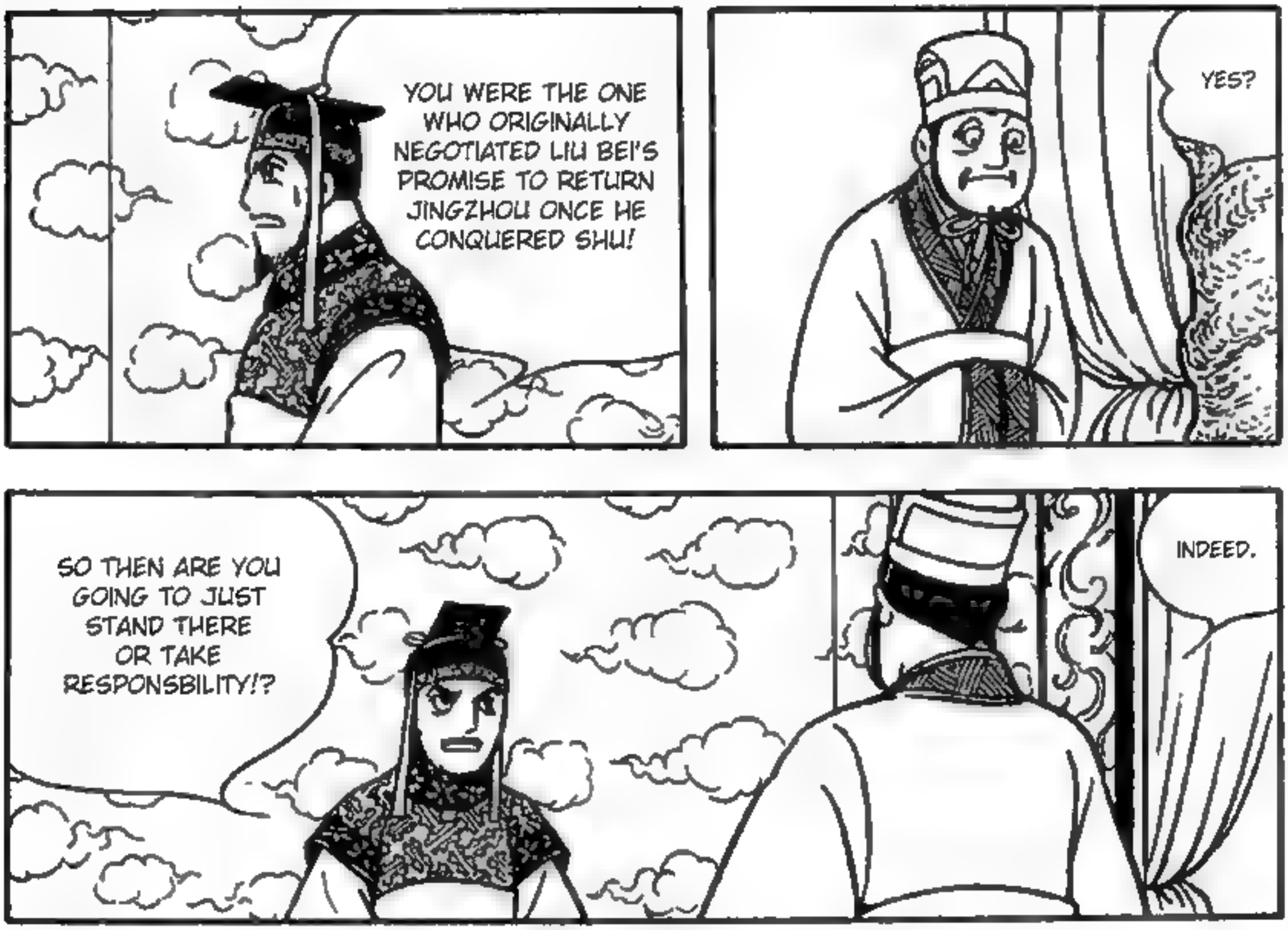


GUAN YU CHASED THEM ALL AWAY!?

WHAT!?


LU SU!

HOW DARE HE...!


YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED LIU BEI'S PROMISE TO RETURN JINGZHOU ONCE HE CONQUERED SHU!
YES?
SO THEN ARE YOU GOING TO JUST STAND THERE OR TAKE RESPONSBILITY!?
INDEED.
OUT WITH IT THEN!
I HAVE OF COURSE BEEN THINKING A PLAN OF MY OWN.

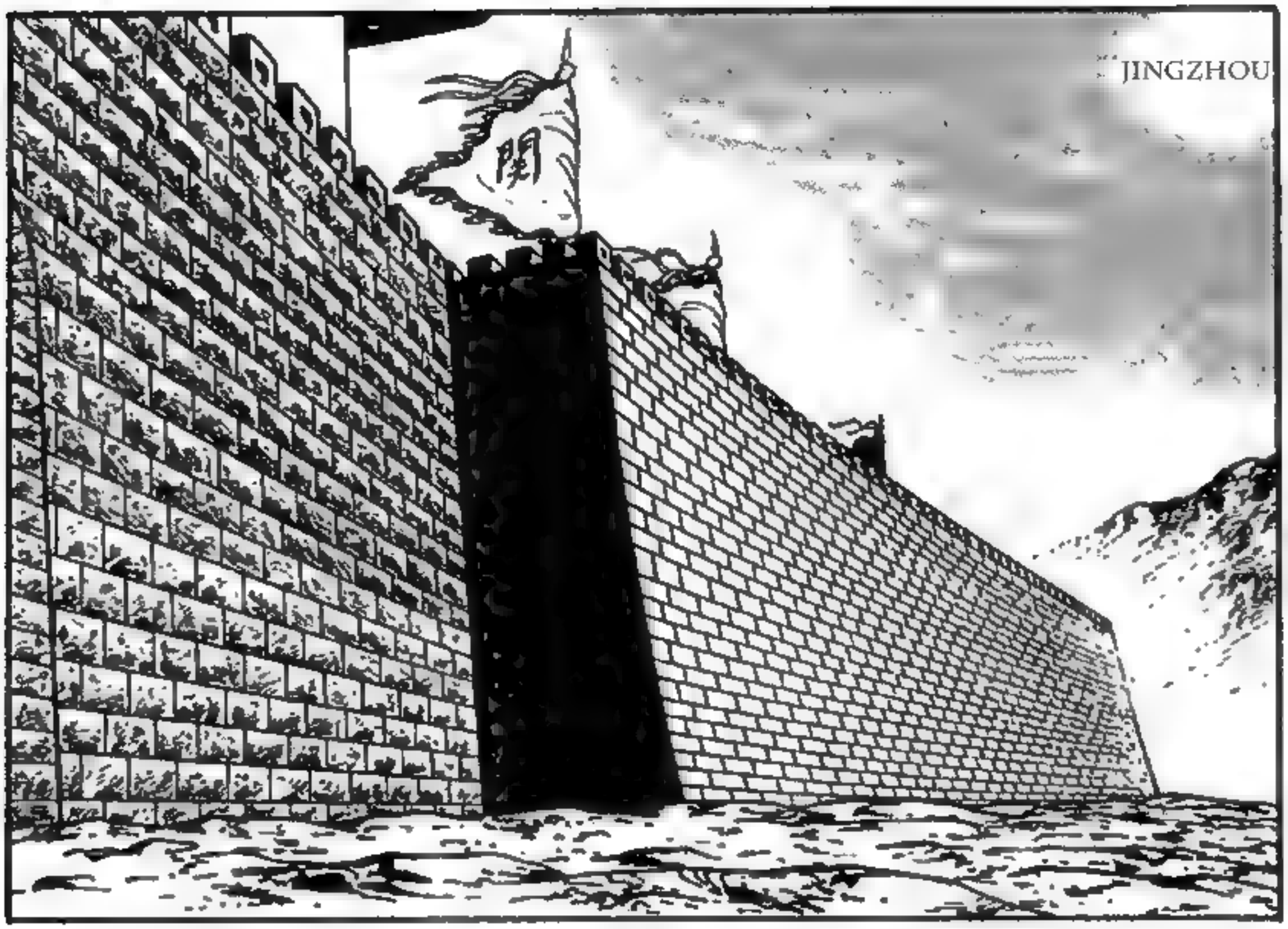
IF HE REFUSES TO ATTEND THE BANQUET, THEN WE WILL JUST HAVE TO USE OUR TROOPS TO TAKE JINGZHOU ONCE AND FOR ALL.

FIRST, WE SEND OUT TROOPS TO MAKE BASE AT LUKOU. THEN, WE WILL INVITE GUAN YU TO COME TO A BANQUET, WHERE I WILL TRY ONCE MORE TO CONVINCE HIM. IF HE DOES NOT LISTEN, HIDDEN SOLDIERS WILL AMBUSH HIM ON THE SPOT AND KILL HIM.

CARRY IT OUT AT ONCE!

YES, I LIKE THAT PLAN.

WU TROOPS WERE MOBILIZED TO LUKOU


JINGZHOU
關

TELL THEM I WILL ATTEND.

YES, SIR.

LU SU INVITED ME TO A BANQUET AT THE LINJIANG PAVILLION.

WHAT IS IT, FATHER?

IT IS TOO DANGEROUS, FATHER. I FEAR IT IS A TRAP OF SOME SORT.

YES.

AND WILL YOU GO?

HAHAHA. NO NEED TO WARN ME. I SUSPECT JUST AS MUCH.

GUAN PING, TAKE 10 SHIPS WITH 500 MARINES ONBOARD AND WAIT BY THE RIVER-SHORE. WHEN YOU SEE MY FLAG WAVING, COME QUICKLY TO PICK ME UP.

AS YOU WISH.

YOU ARE TO COME WITH ME.

ZHOU CANG!

YES?

吳

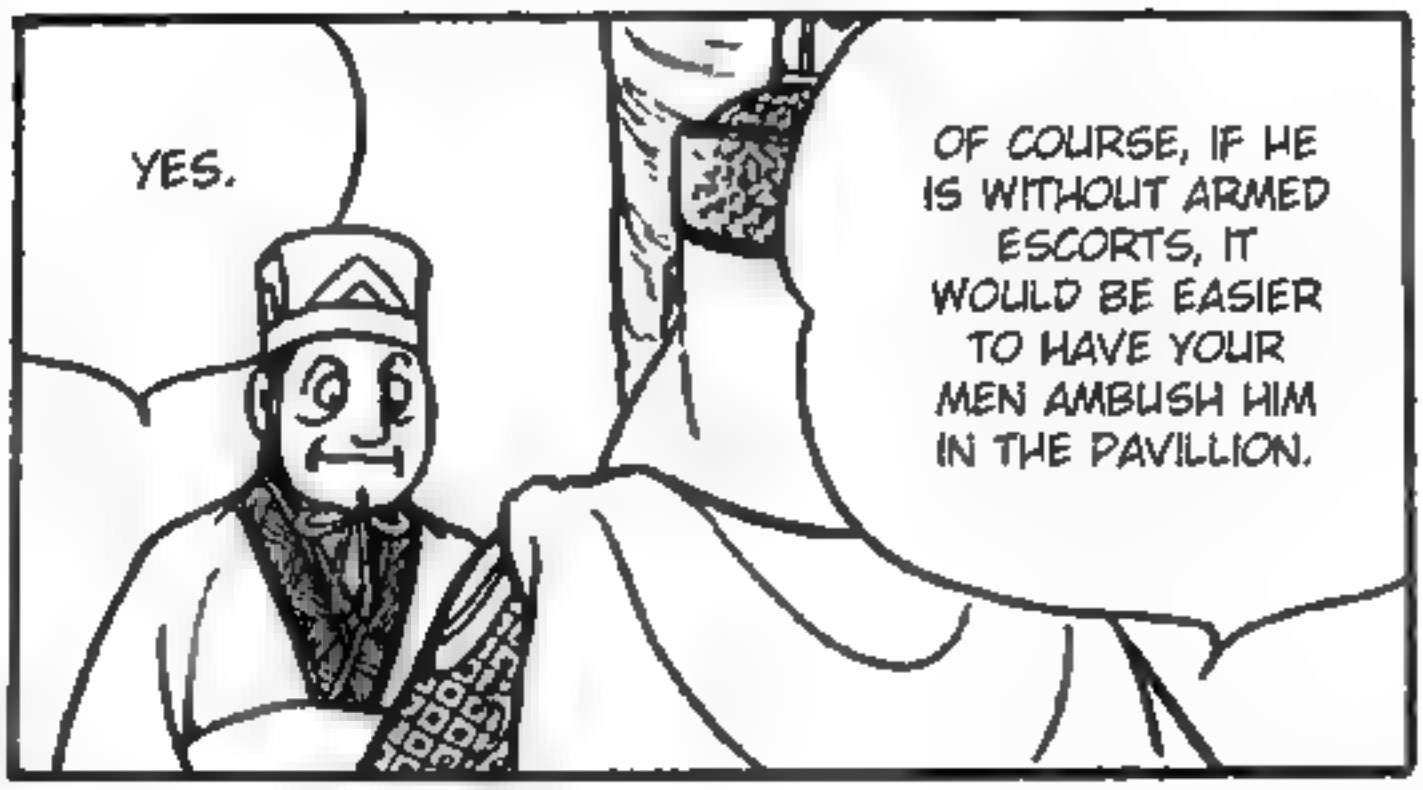
GAN NING. LU MENG. THE PLAN'S WORKING SO FAR.

YES, SIR.

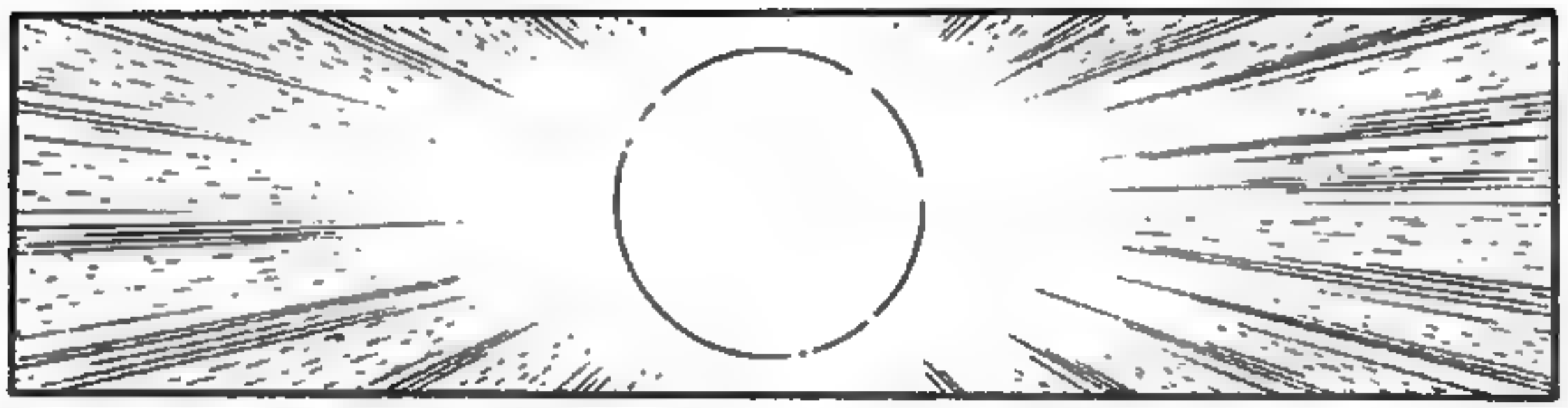
HE ACCEPTED!?

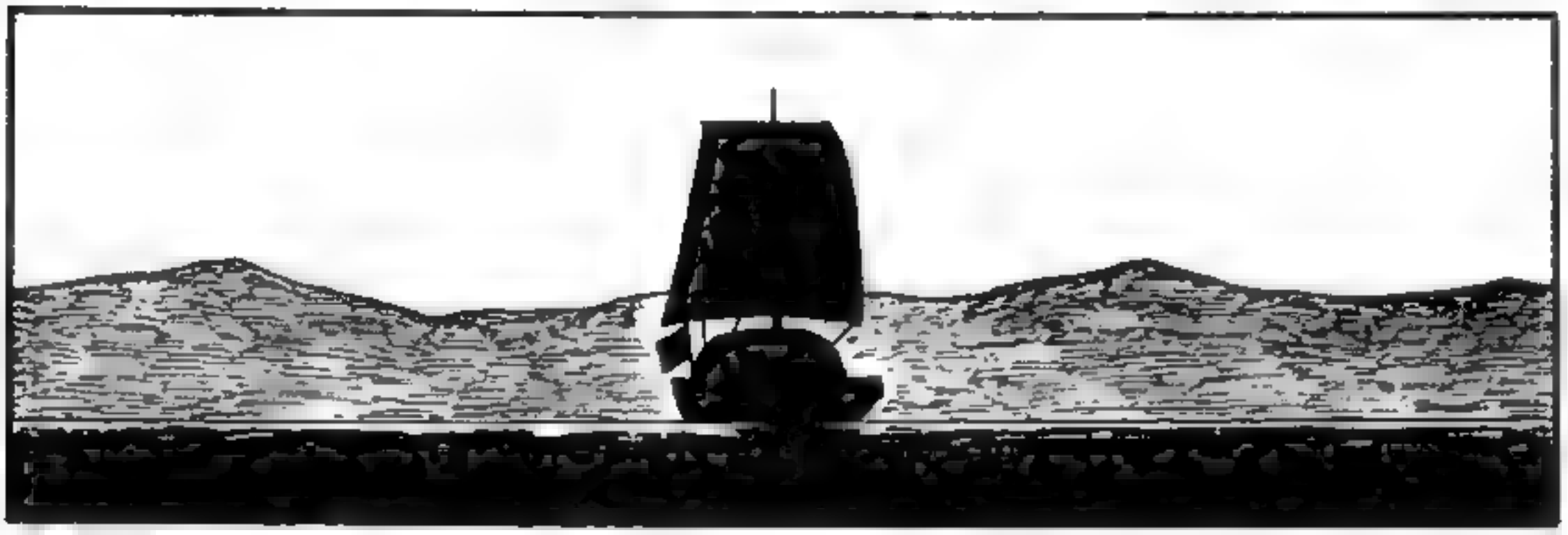
GOOD.

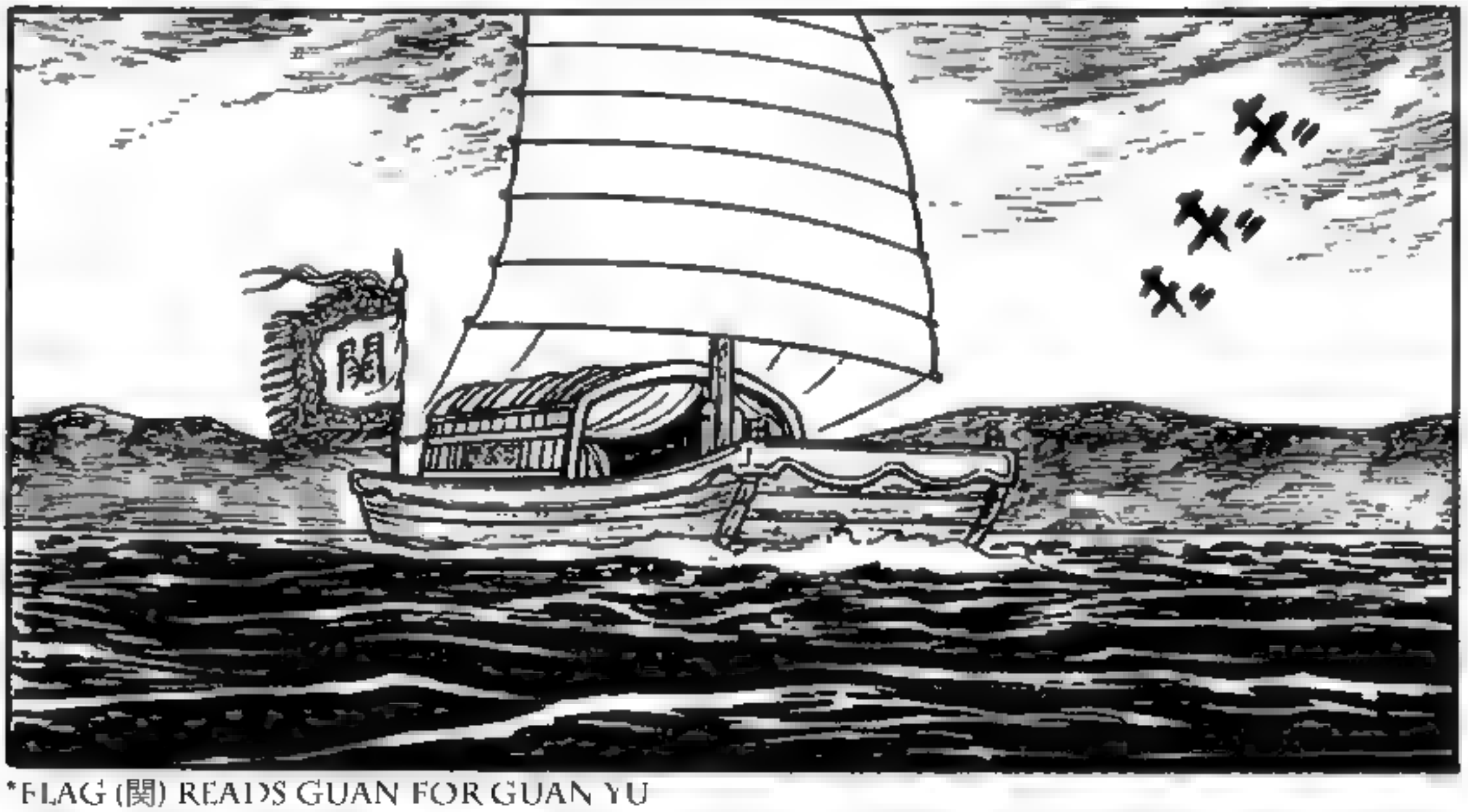
YES, BUT GUAN YU WILL MOST LIKELY COME WITH ARMED GUARDS. THE TWO OF US WILL HIDE OUR TROOPS BY THE RIVERSIDE. GIVE US THE SIGNAL WHEN YOU WISH TO KILL HIM.



WITH THESE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE, LU SU NOW WAITED FOR GUAN YU'S ARRIVAL, AS DID THE SOLDIERS HIDDEN BY THE RIVERSHORE AND THE ASSASSINS INSIDE THE LINJIANG PAVILLION.







*FLAG (関) READS GUAN FOR GUAN YU

HUH, DID HE NOT COME WITH ANY SOLDIERS?

A SMALL BOAT APPROACHES BEARING GUAN YU'S FLAG!

IF HE DOESN'T, THE ASSAS-SINS INSIDE WILL.

YOU KNOW THE PLAN, GAN NING. IF HE COMES WITH SOLDIERS, WE AMBUSH HIM.

WHAT DO WE DO, LU MENG?

RIGHT.

YES, SIR.

LET LU SU KNOW GUAN YU HAS COME.

THIS WAY.

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION.
I HAVE BEEN EAGERLY WAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

FEEL FREE TO DRINK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

BY THE WAY... YOUR BROTHER, THE IMPERIAL UNCLE, FORMERLY PROMISED ME TO RETURN JINGZHOU ONCE SHU WAS UNDER HIS CONTROL...

AND YET JINGZHOU IS STILL NOT UNDER WU'S CONTROL EVEN THOUGH HE NOW RULES FROM CHENGDU. IS THIS NOT A BREACH OF HIS PROMISE?

OF COURSE, BUT I MUST CONFESS THAT I AM BAFFLED WHY YOU HAVE BEEN DEFYING YOUR OWN LORD BY NOT GIVING US THE PROMISED THEE COMMANDERIES OF JINGZHOU.

I WISH NOT TO SPEAK MATTERS OF THE STATE AT A JOVIAL BANQUET.

NOW HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! WHO WAS IT THAT RESCUED THE IMPERIAL UNCLE FROM CAO CAO WHEN HE HAD NO LAND NOR ALLIES!? WHO WAS IT THAT MADE THE VICTORY AT RED CLIFFS POSSIBLE!? ARE THE IMPERIAL UNCLE'S SUCCESSES NOT DUE IN PART TO OUR CONTRIBUTIONS!?

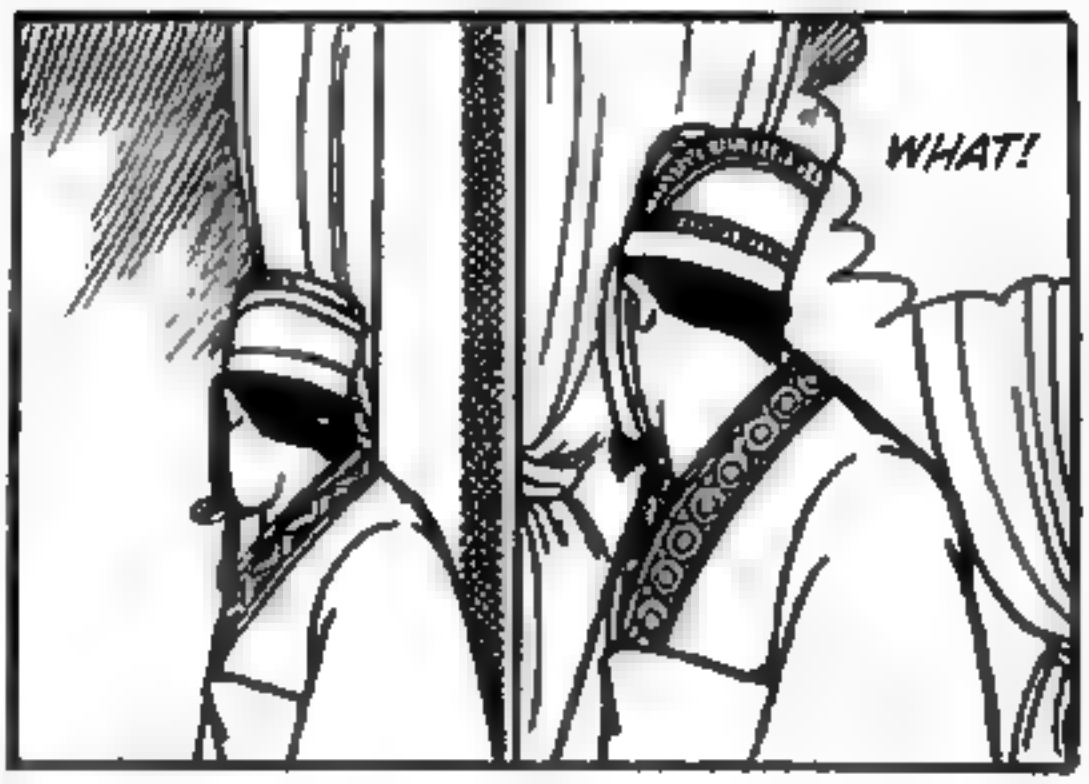
AHH, BUT YOU SEE, THOSE LANDS WERE WON SHORTLY AFTER THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS BY THE BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS OF MY LORD AND HIS MEN. SIMPLY GIVING THEM AWAY WOULD BE TO BESMIRCH THE SACRIFICES OF MY DECEASED COMRADES NOW BURIED THERE.

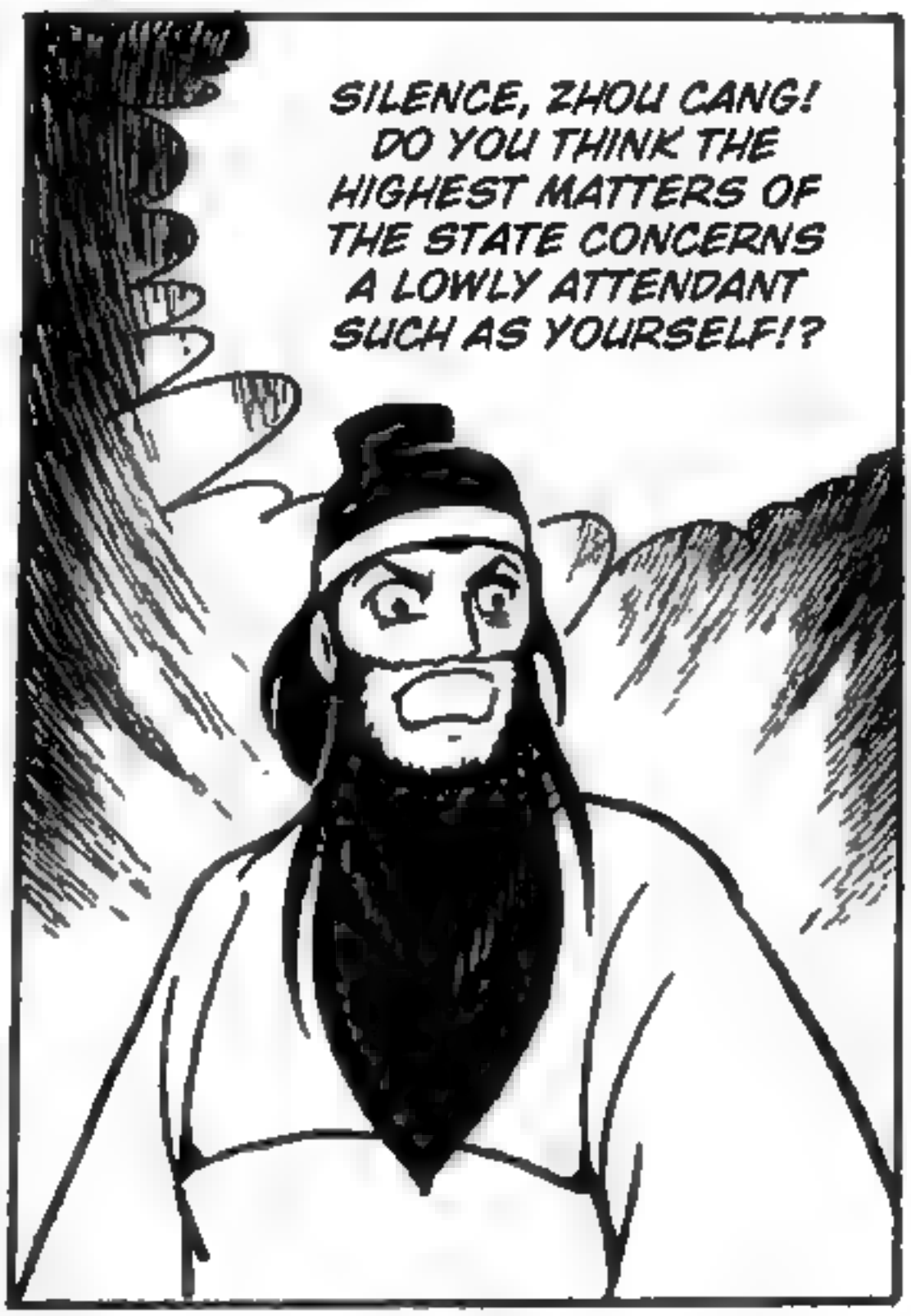
.....

OR HAS EVEN THE VIRTUOUS IMPERIAL UNCLE FORGOT HIS DEBTS TO WU?

SILENCE! THE LANDS OF THE EMPIRE IS SIMPLY FOR THOSE WITH VIRTUE AND THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN! IT IS NOT THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF WU!

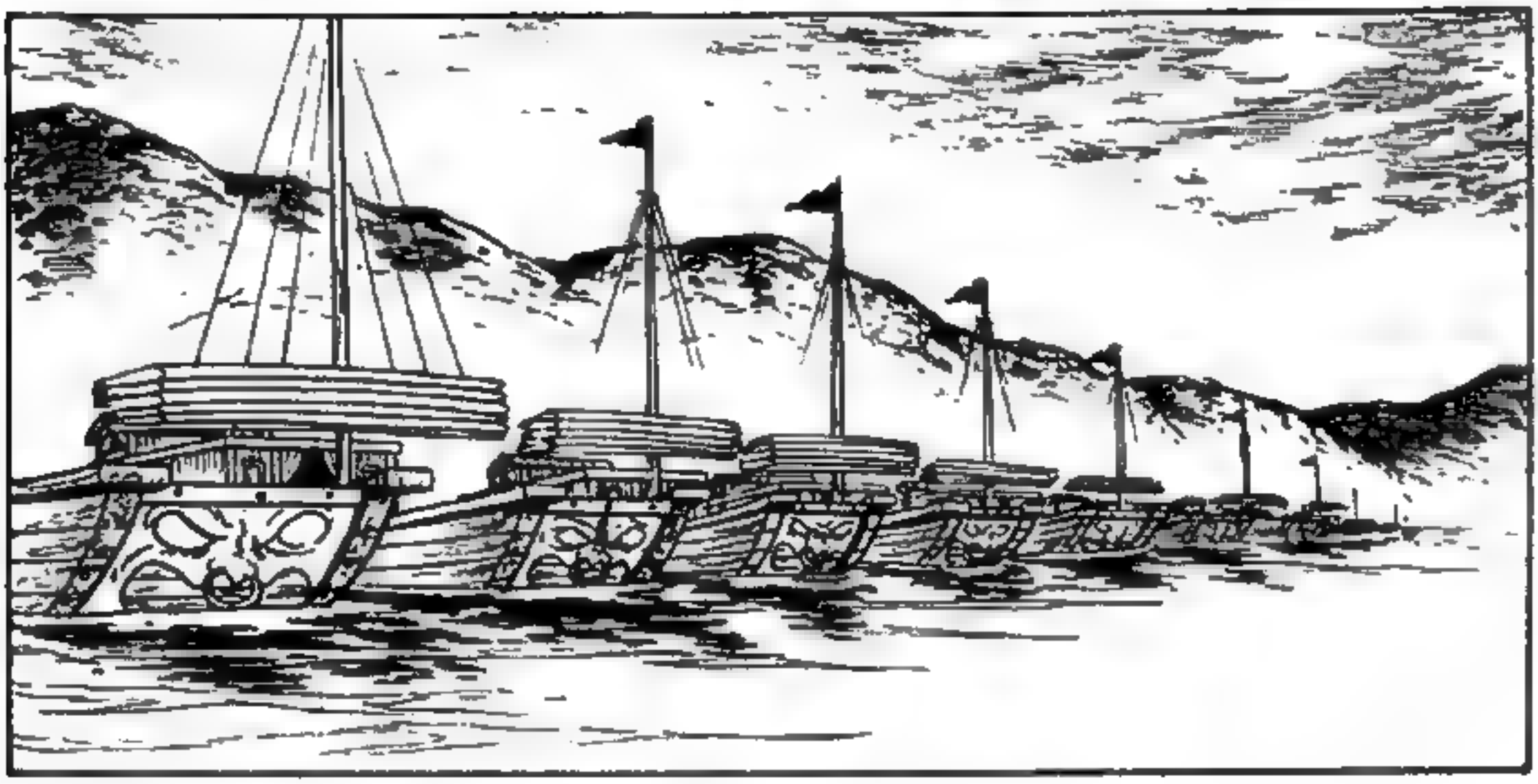
WHAT!


WHAT!

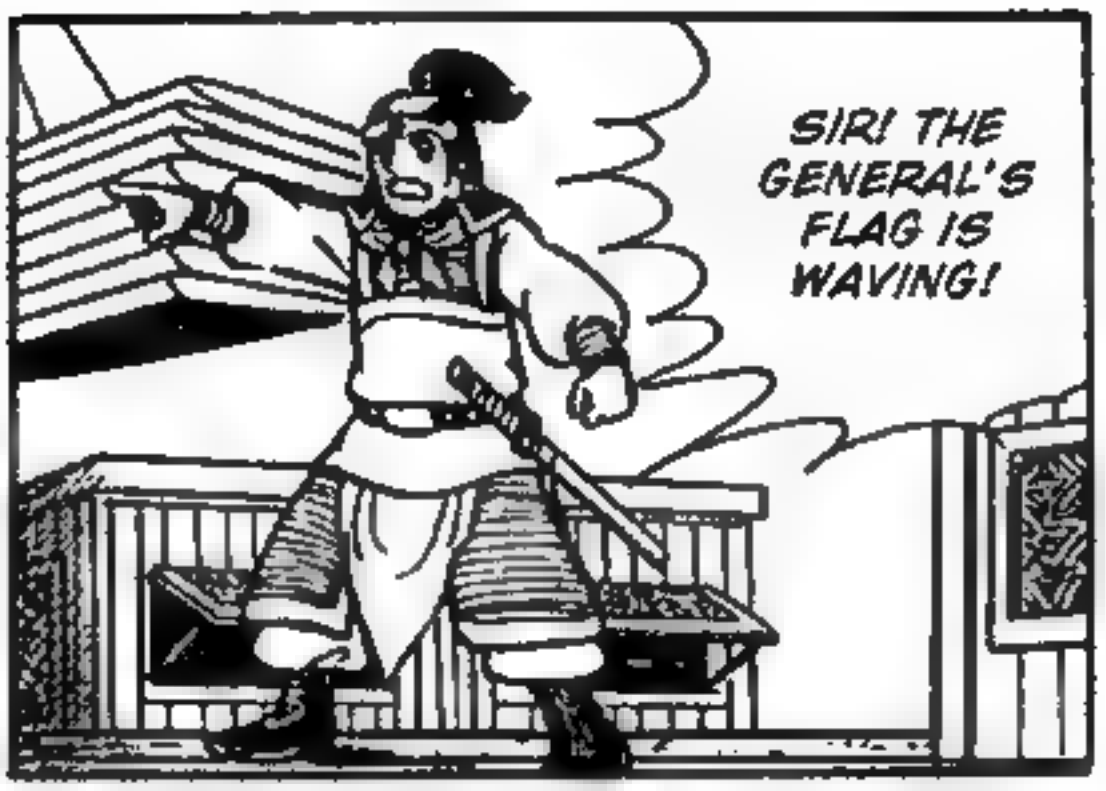

SILENCE, ZHOU CANG! DO YOU THINK THE HIGHEST MATTERS OF THE STATE CONCERNS A LOWLY ATTENDANT SUCH AS YOURSELF!?

YOU DISGRACE ME! NOW GET OUT BEFORE YOU RUIN THIS BANQUET!

HAND ME THAT FLAG.



RAISE THE SAILS!


SIR! THE GENERAL'S FLAG IS WAVING!

IN ANY CASE, I DO NOT THINK THIS PLACE IS APPROPRIATE TO HAVE SUCH A SERIOUS DISCUSSION. I WILL EXCUSE MYSELF FOR TODAY BUT LET US CONTINUE OUR TALK SOME OTHER TIME.

MY APOLOGIES FOR BRINGING AN UNCOUTH BOOR TO THIS BANQUET.

BY THE WAY, I'M FEELING A LITTLE TIPSY SO I HOPE YOU WILL KINDLY ESCORT ME OUT.

BEING A GENTLEMEN, YOU WOULD OF COURSE NOT REFUSE, NO?

AHH!

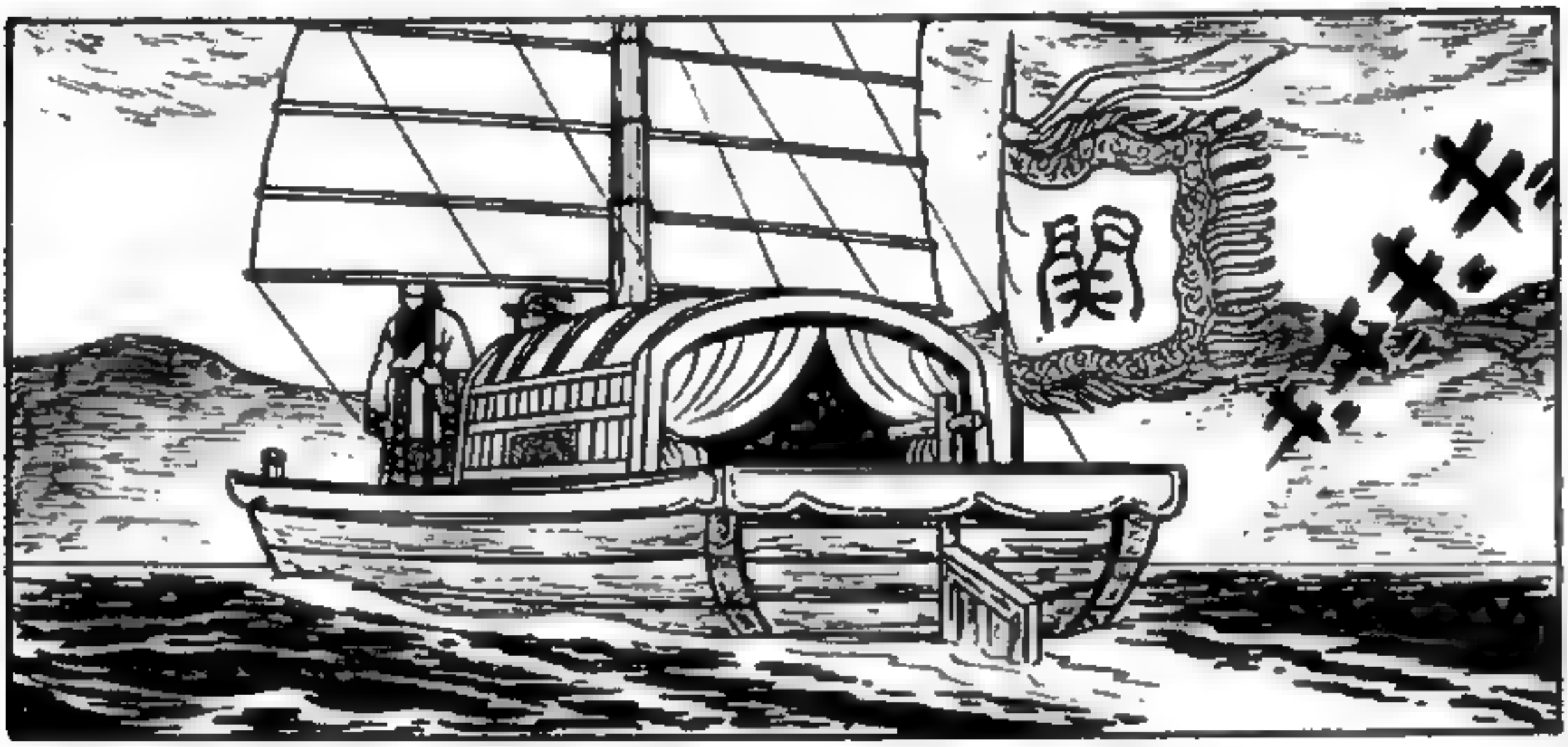
HUH?

DON'T ACT RASHLY OR LU SU'S HEAD IS AS GOOD AS GONE!

WHAT DO WE DO!?

QUICKLY, GENERAL.

THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A CORDIAL HOST, LU SU.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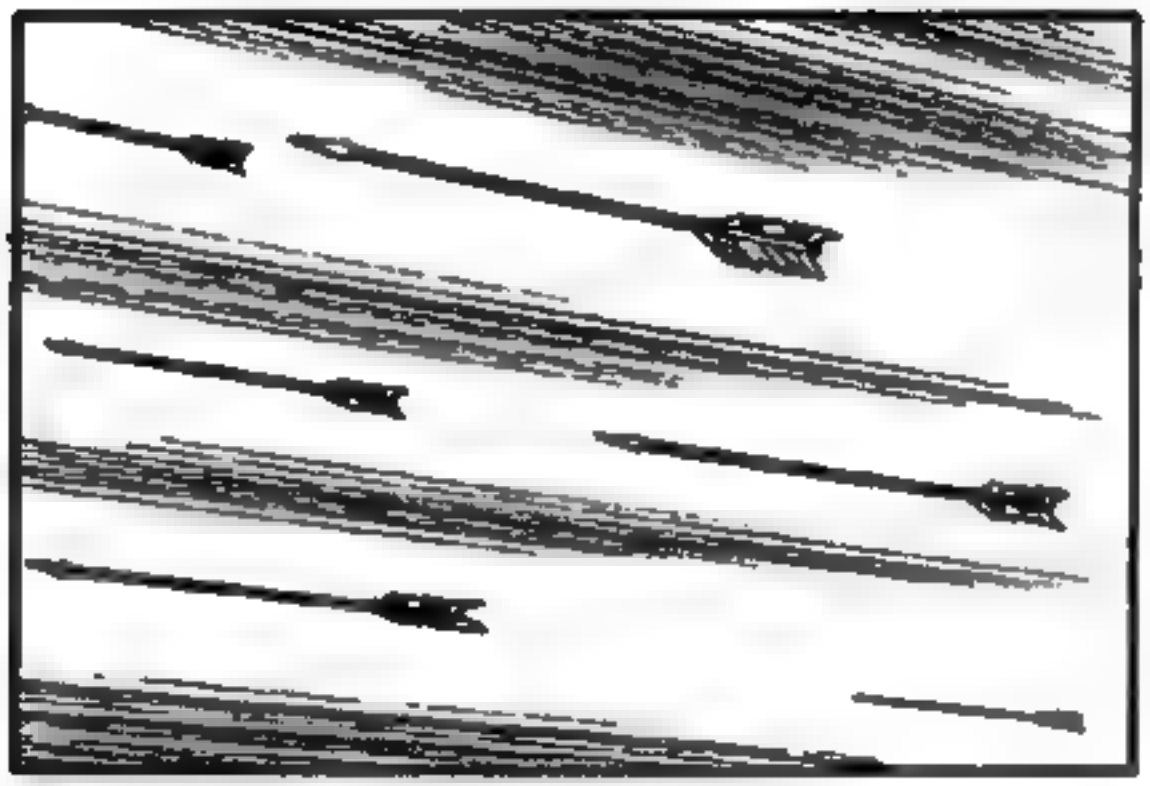
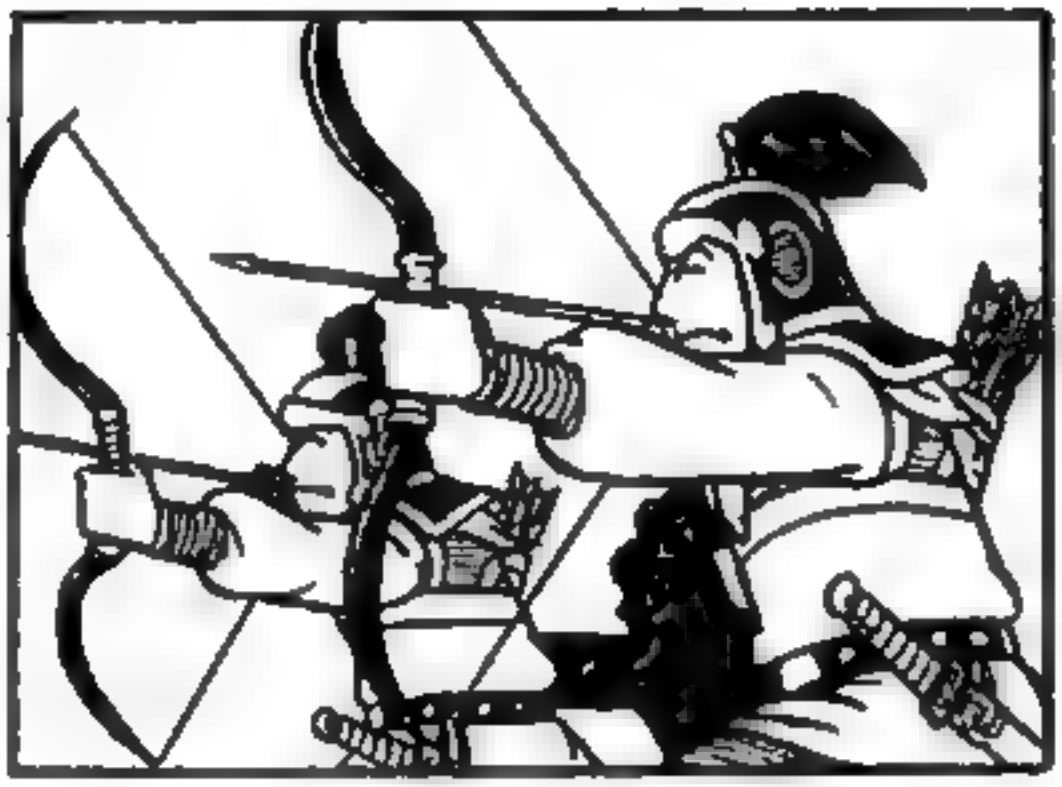
ARCHERS!

CURSES!





HAHAHA!

NGHHH...

FATAL MISSION

THE IMPERIAL COURT HAD LOST SO MUCH POWER THAT THE AVERAGE COMMONER HAD ALMOST EVEN FORGOTTEN OF THE EMPEROR'S VERY EXISTENCE.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DISCUSSING YOUR WORRIES WITH MY FATHER?

AS DO I, YOUR HIGHNESS.

MY DEAR CONSORT FU, I FEEL AS IF I'M SITTING ON PINS AND NEEDLES EVERY DAY.

YOU MEAN FU WAN!?

SSHHH! QUIET, WHO KNOWS WHO COULD BE LISTENING IN ON US RIGHT NOW!?

I'M SURE HE COULD COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO TAKE CARE OF CAO CAO...

BUT EVEN OUR PERSONAL QUARTERS ARE FULL OF ATTENDANTS WHO REPORT TO CAO CAO. I DO NOT WANT ANOTHER DONG CHENG INCIDENT...

BUT AT THIS RATE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HE DECIDES TO USURP THE THRONE...

HMM... FINE, LET US TRY ASKING MU SHUN.

THERE IS STILL ONE LOYAL ATTENDANT I KNOW WE CAN TRUST. HIS NAME IS MU SHUN.

YES.

CALL MU SHUN HERE.

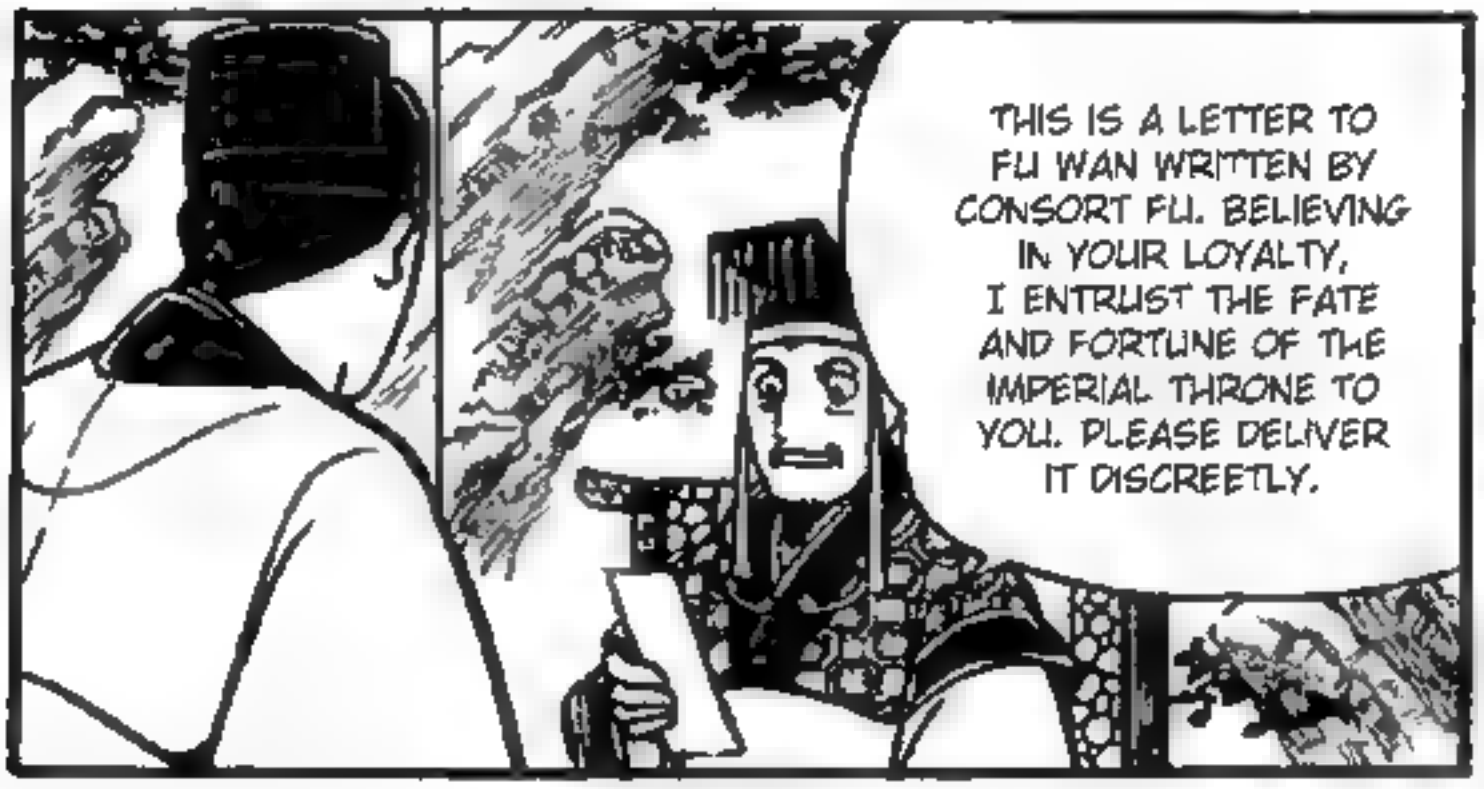
FINE.

I WILL WRITE THE LETTER TO MY FATHER.

MU SHUN, HIS HIGHNESS CALLS FOR YOUR PRESENCE.

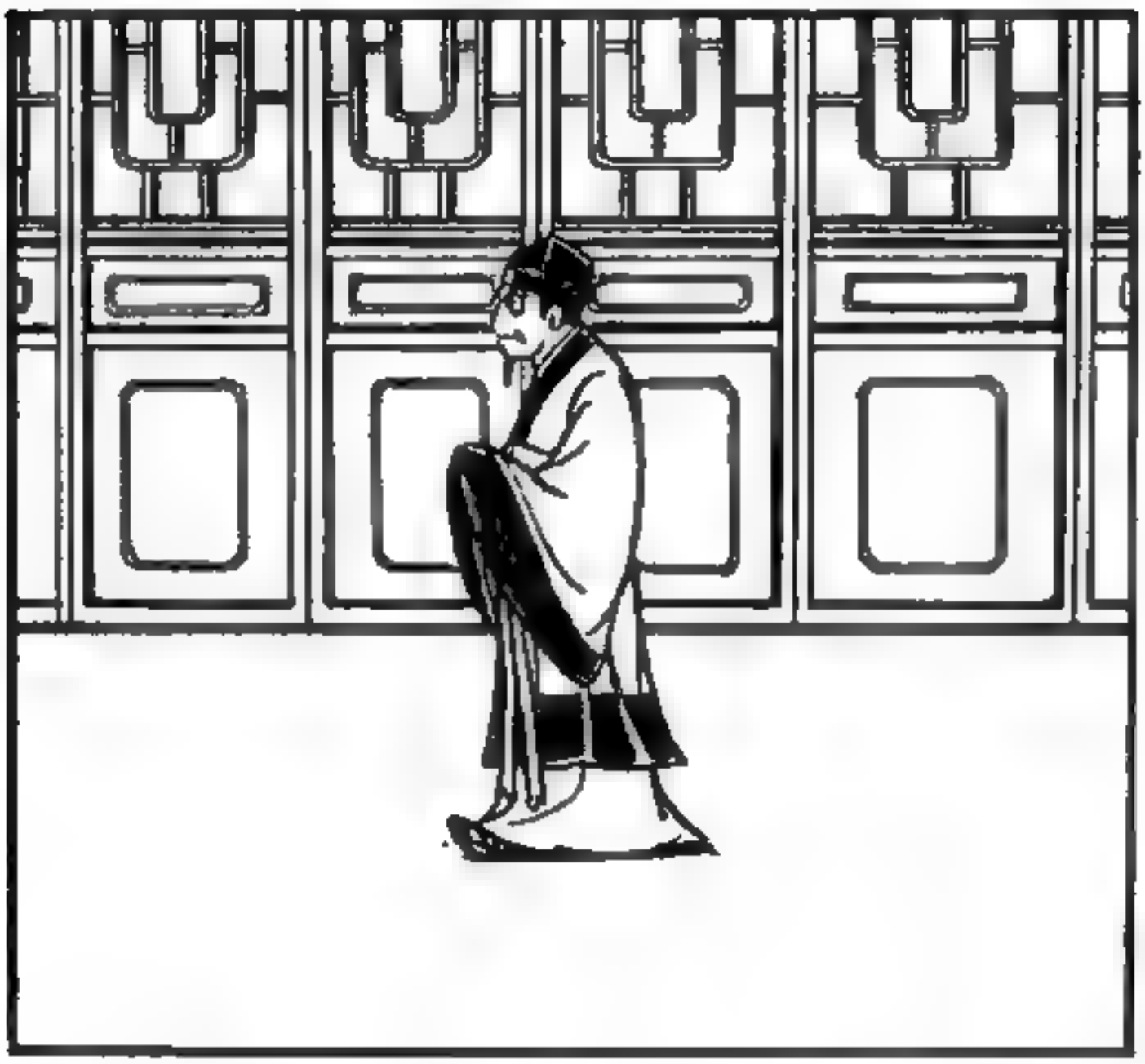
RECENTLY, CAO CAO HAS EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO RAISE HIS STATUS FROM A DUKE TO A VASSAL KING OF WEI. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME THAT HE'LL BE DISSATISFIED WITH EVEN THAT AND SEEK THE IMPERIAL THRONE. THAT IS WHY I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH FU WAN ON HOW TO "DEAL" WITH THIS CRISIS.

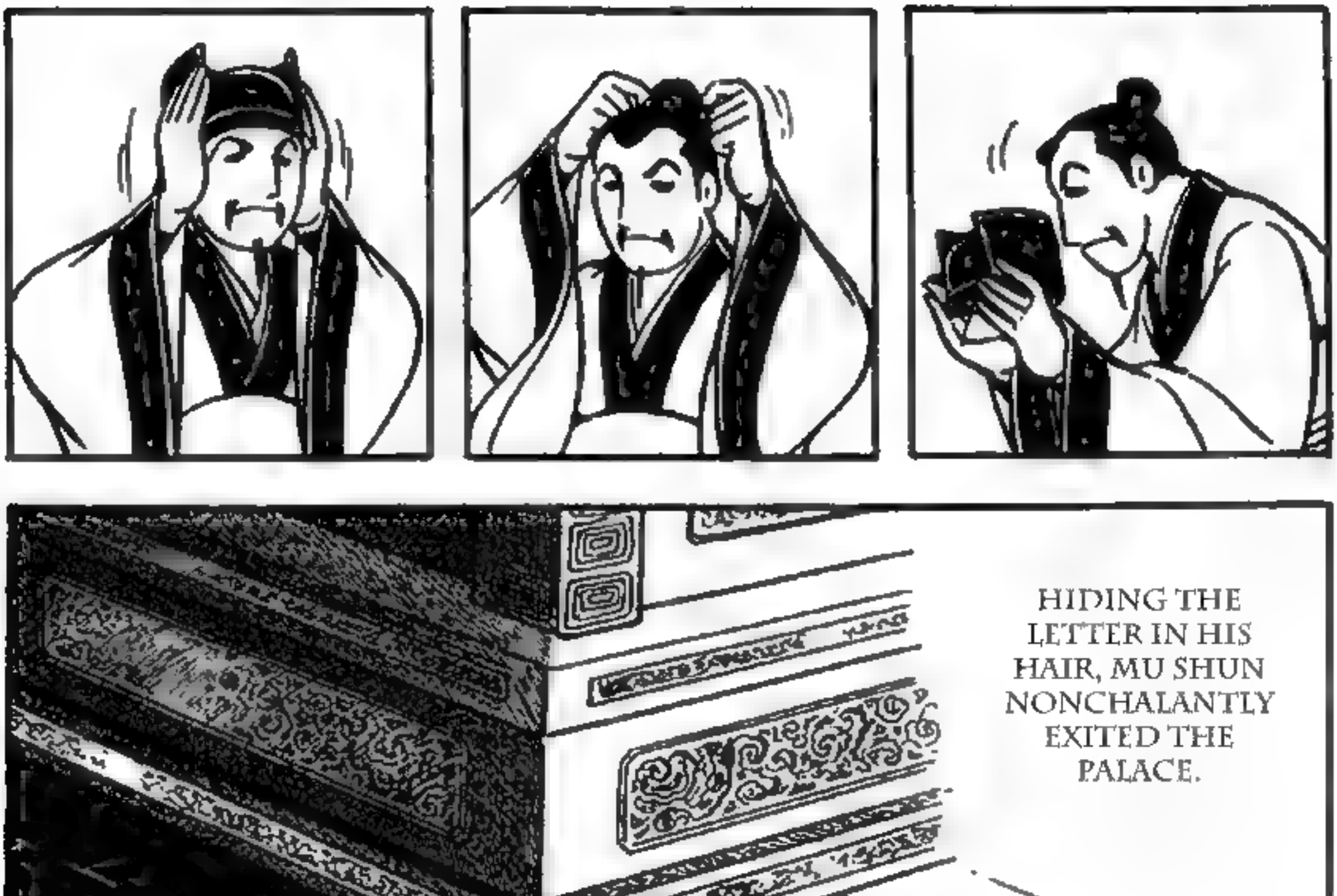
YES, COME CLOSER.
DID YOUR HIGHNESS CALL FOR ME?


THIS IS A LETTER TO FU WAN WRITTEN BY CONSORT FU. BELIEVING IN YOUR LOYALTY, I ENTRUST THE FATE AND FORTUNE OF THE IMPERIAL THRONE TO YOU. PLEASE DELIVER IT DISCREETLY.

OF COURSE
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, MU SHUN.

I AM INDEBTED TO YOUR KINDNESS, YOUR HIGHNESS. I SHALL GLADLY CARRY OUT MY DUTIES, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.

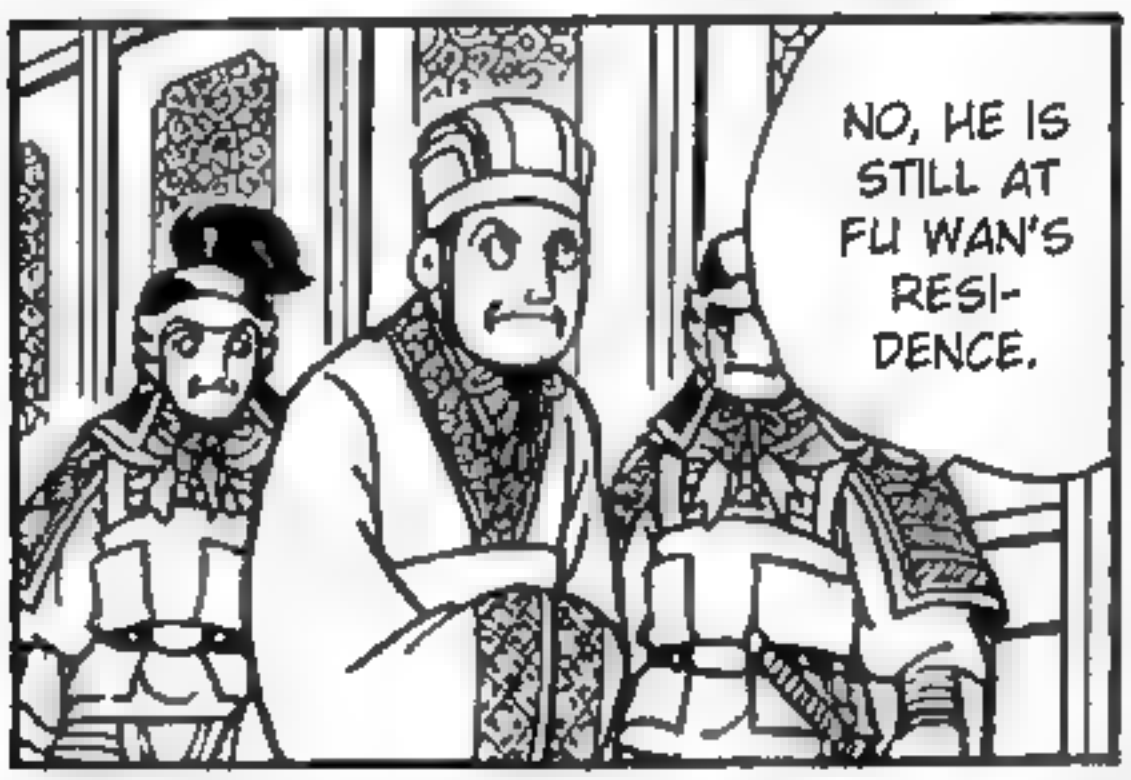



HIDING THE LETTER IN HIS HAIR, MU SHUN NONCHALANTLY EXITED THE PALACE.

HM...

YES, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE OFF, IF YOU ASK ME.
WHAT? MU SHUN HEADED TO FU WAN'S HOUSE?

COULD IT BE...?


NO, HE IS STILL AT FU WAN'S RESIDENCE.

HAS HE RETURNED YET?

LET US HEAD ON OVER THEN.

FU WAN'S RESIDENCE

I UNDERSTAND HIS HIGHNESS' GRIEF, BUT CAO CAO HAS EYES EVERYWHERE. IT IS TOO DIFFICULT TO MAKE A MOVE RIGHT NOW.

HMM...

I WILL WRITE A LETTER TELLING HIS HIGHNESS TO WAIT UNTIL THEN.

THAT IS OUR IDEAL CHANCE TO STRIKE. I WILL GATHER ALL THE LOYALISTS AND ATTACK FROM WITHIN.

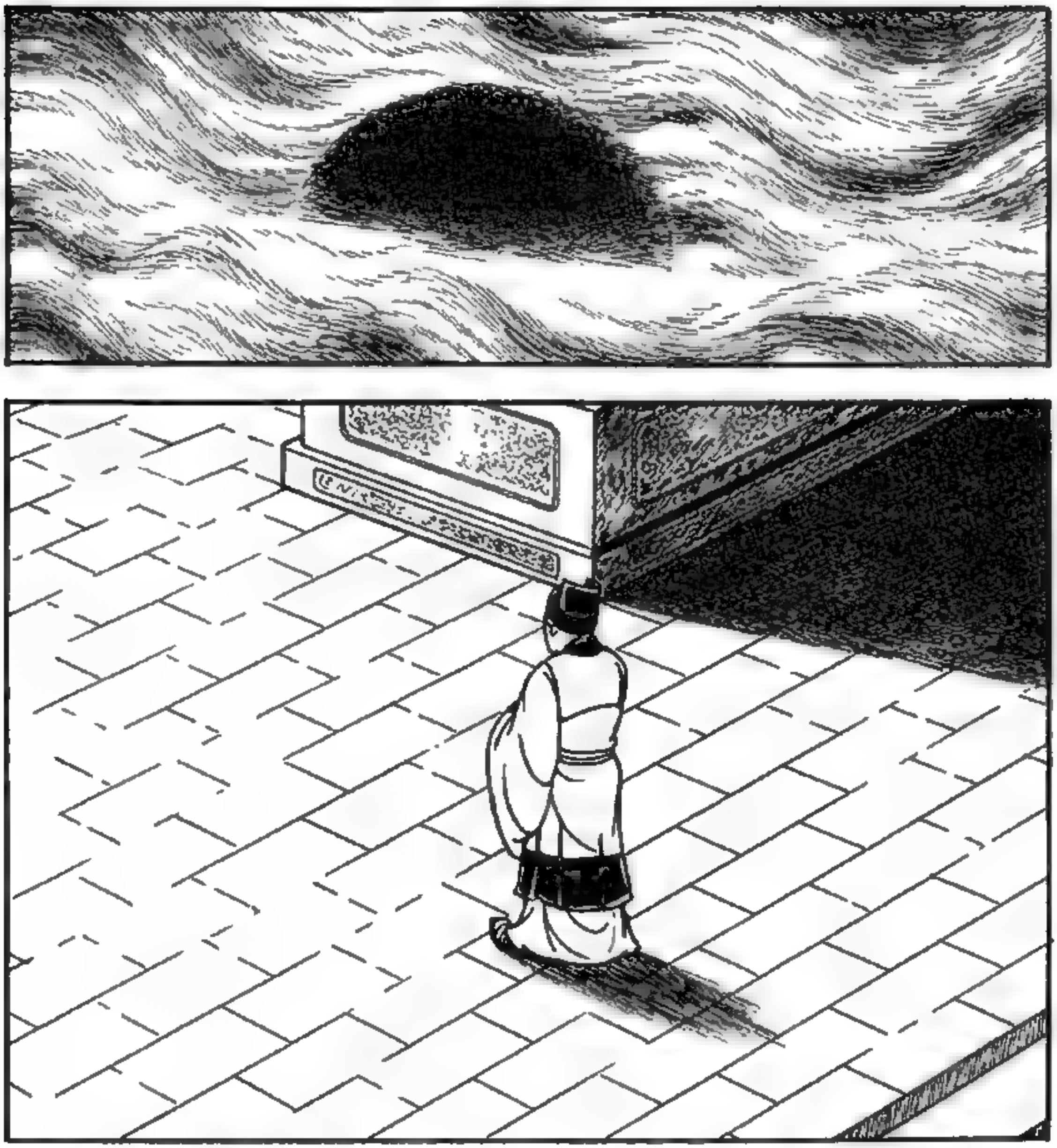
BUT IF SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI WERE TO JOIN HANDS AND ATTACK, CAO CAO WILL HAVE FAR BIGGER CONCERNS.

YES, SIR.

HERE, TAKE THIS TO HIS HIGHNESS.

YES.

EXCUSE ME THEN.



STOP RIGHT THERE, MU SHUN!

YES? I'M ASKING YOU WHERE YOU'VE BEEN!

CONSORT FU FELT ILL SO I WENT TO GO CALL A DOCTOR ON HER BEHALF.

Y-YES, SIR...

AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

SEARCH HIS BODY!

YOU WENT TO GO CALL A DOCTOR? THERE ARE PLENTY OF DOCTORS INSIDE THE PALACE! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT LIE!?

THERE WAS NOTHING ON HIM, CHANCELLOR.

I-IT IS THE TRUTH, CHANCELLOR! I SWEAR!

Y-YES, SIR...
FINE, YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF.

HM...

WAIT!

SEARCH HIS HEAD!

YOUR HEADWEAR IS ON BACKWARDS.

SIR! WE FOUND A LETTER!

I WILL ASK SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI TO ATTACK XUCHANG TOGETHER...!?

LET ME SEE.

THIS WAY, PAL.

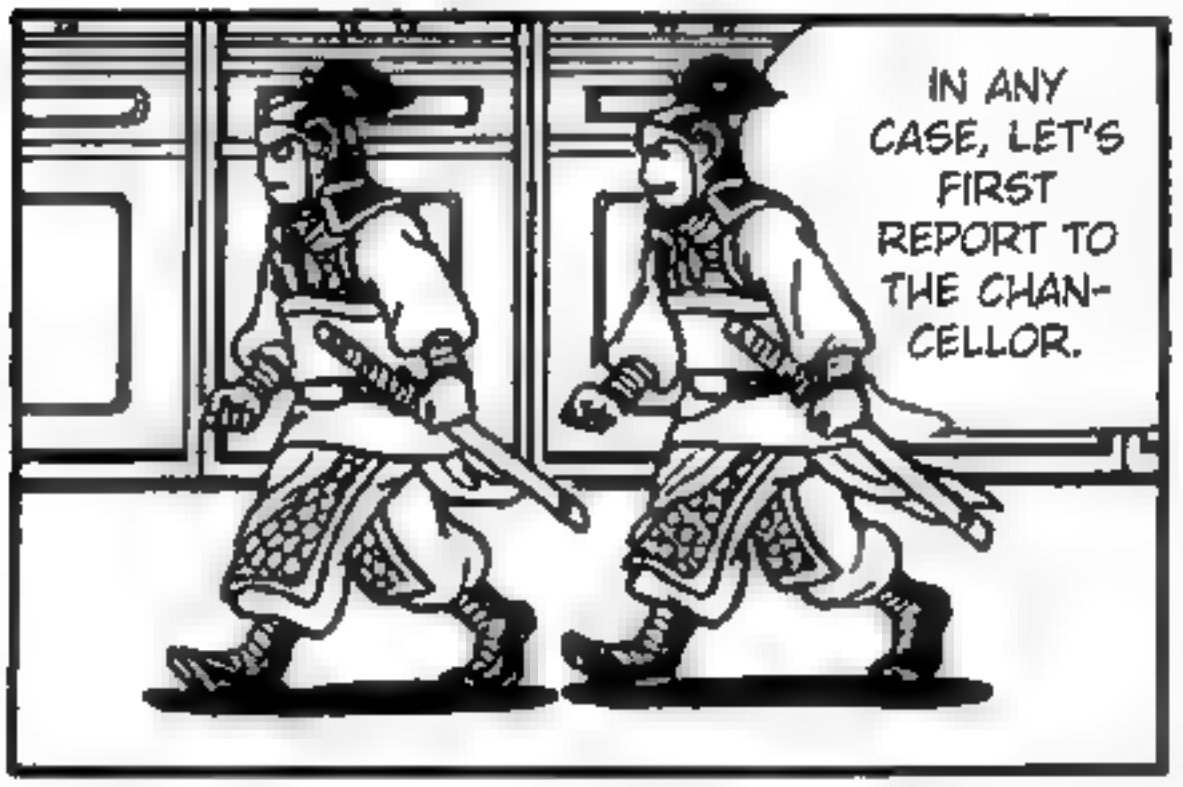
TORTURE THIS MAN AND FIND OUT WHO THE LEADER OF THIS PLOT IS!

SPIT IT OUT!

WHO'S THE RINGLEADER!?

OUT WITH IT! WHO'S BEHIND THIS PLOT!?

HUFF
HUFF


IN ANY CASE, LET'S FIRST REPORT TO THE CHAN-CELLOR.

DOING ANY MORE THAN THIS WILL JUST KILL HIM.
THAT'S ONE TENACIOUS BASTARD.

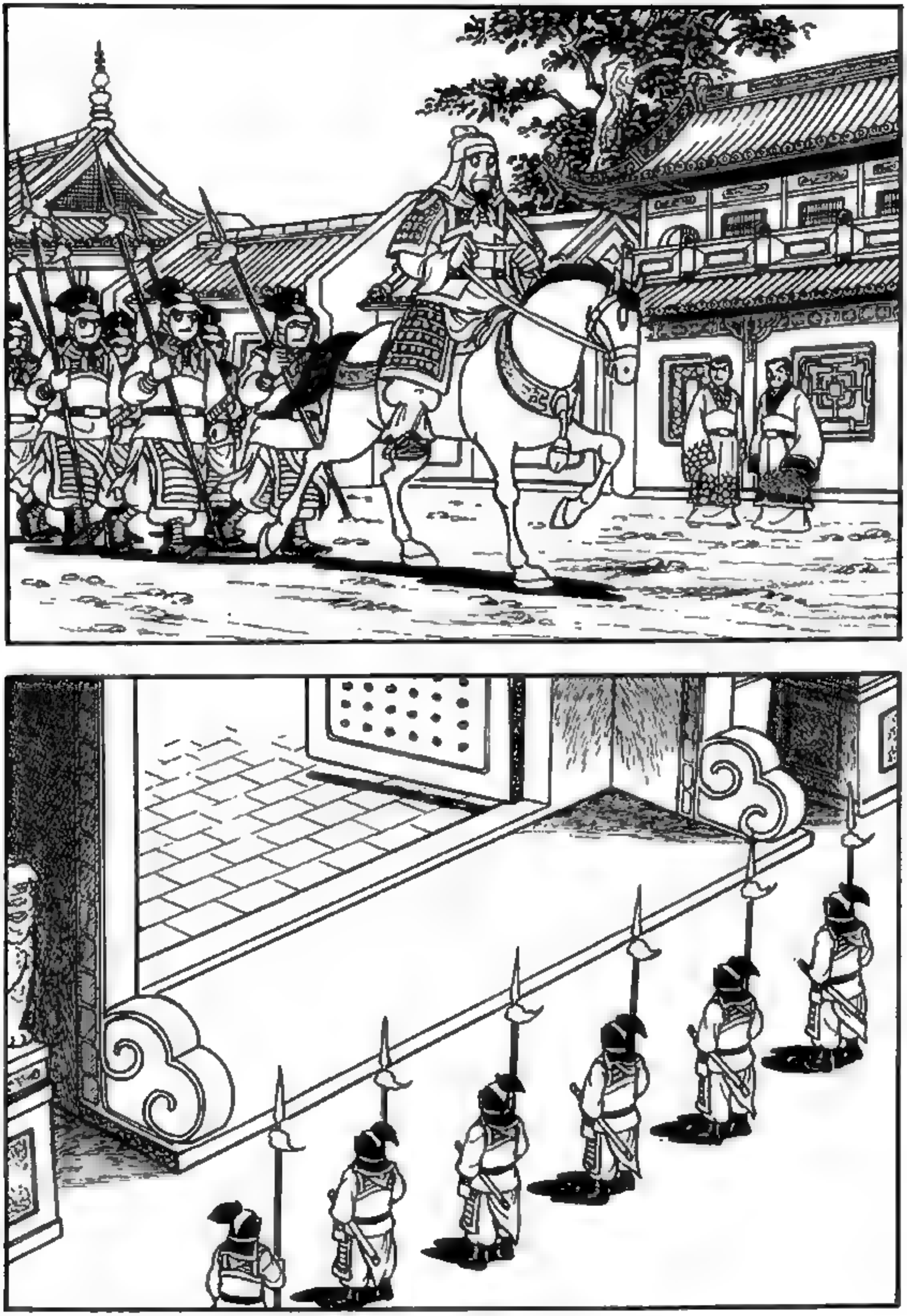
UNFORTUNATELY NOT, SIR. I'VE NEVER DEALT WITH SUCH A STUBBORN MAN.

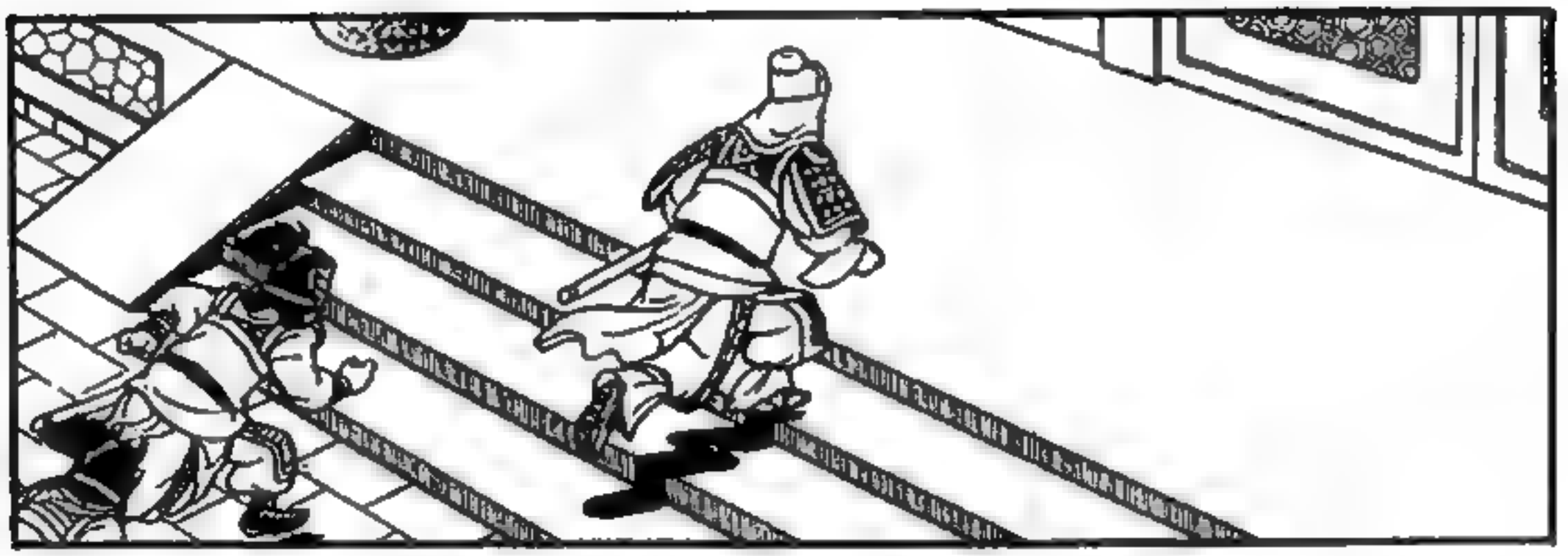
HE STILL WON'T TALK?

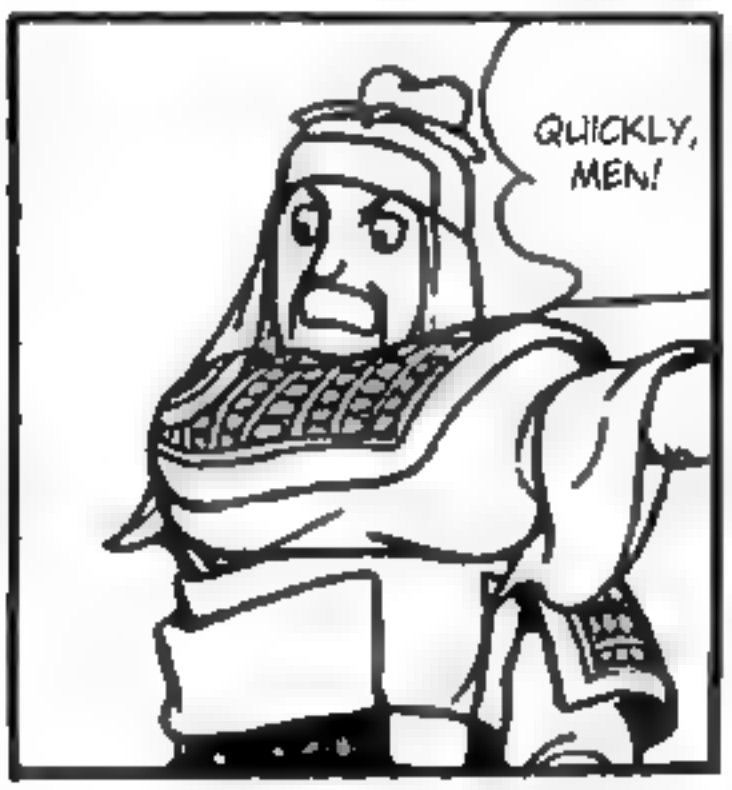
YES, SIR!

SEARCH FU WAN'S HOUSE!

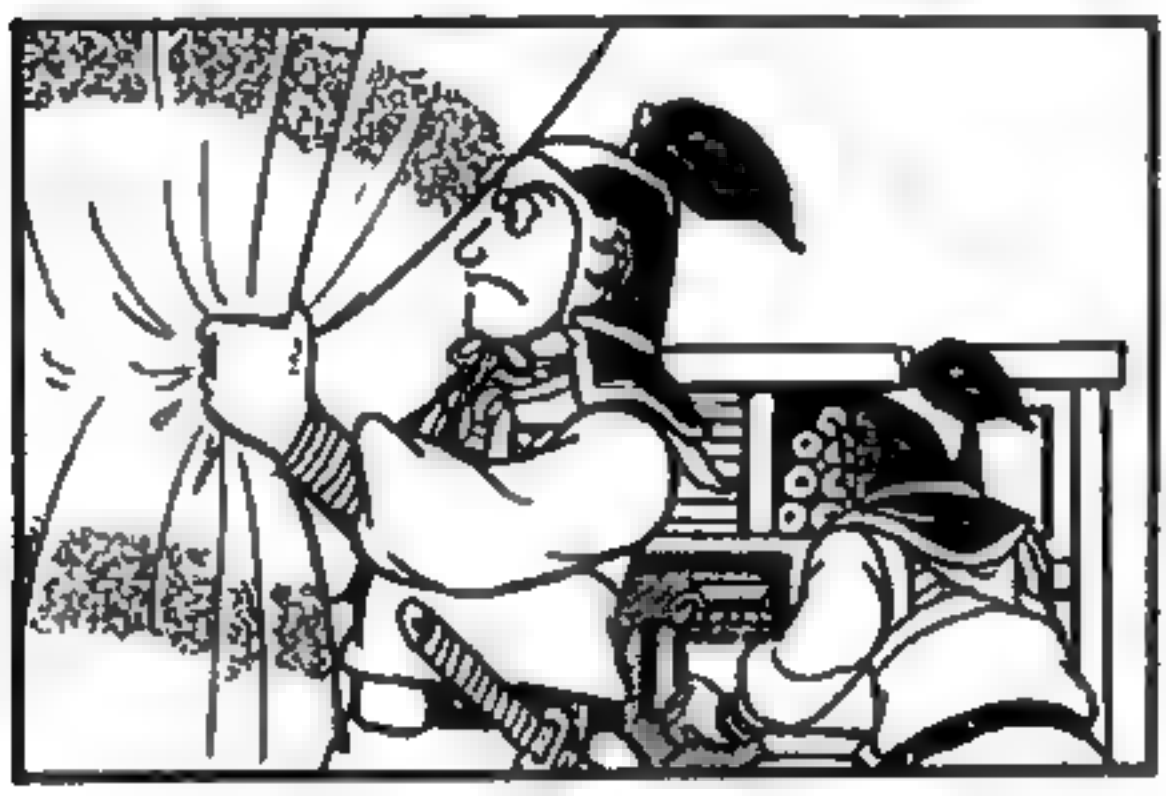
HMM... WELL, WE KNOW HE CAME OUT FROM FU WAN'S RESIDENCE FOR CERTAIN.



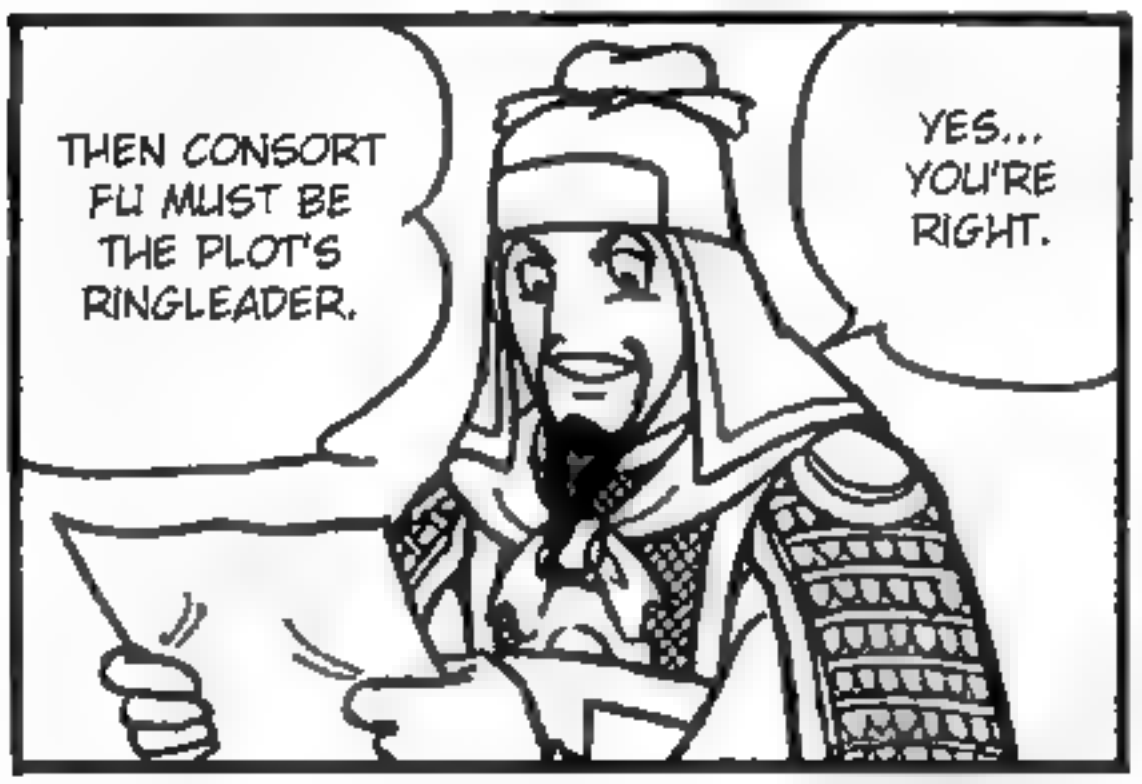



QUICKLY, MEN!

I HAVE DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE CHANCEL-LOR TO SEARCH THIS ENTIRE RESIDENCE.
W-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?



HM?


THEN CONSORT FU MUST BE THE PLOT'S RINGLEADER.
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT.

CAPTAIN! THIS IS CONSORT FU'S HAND-WRITING!

ROUND UP THE ENTIRE FU HOUSEHOLD!

GULP!

KYAAA!

DRAG ALL THESE TRAITORS OUT!

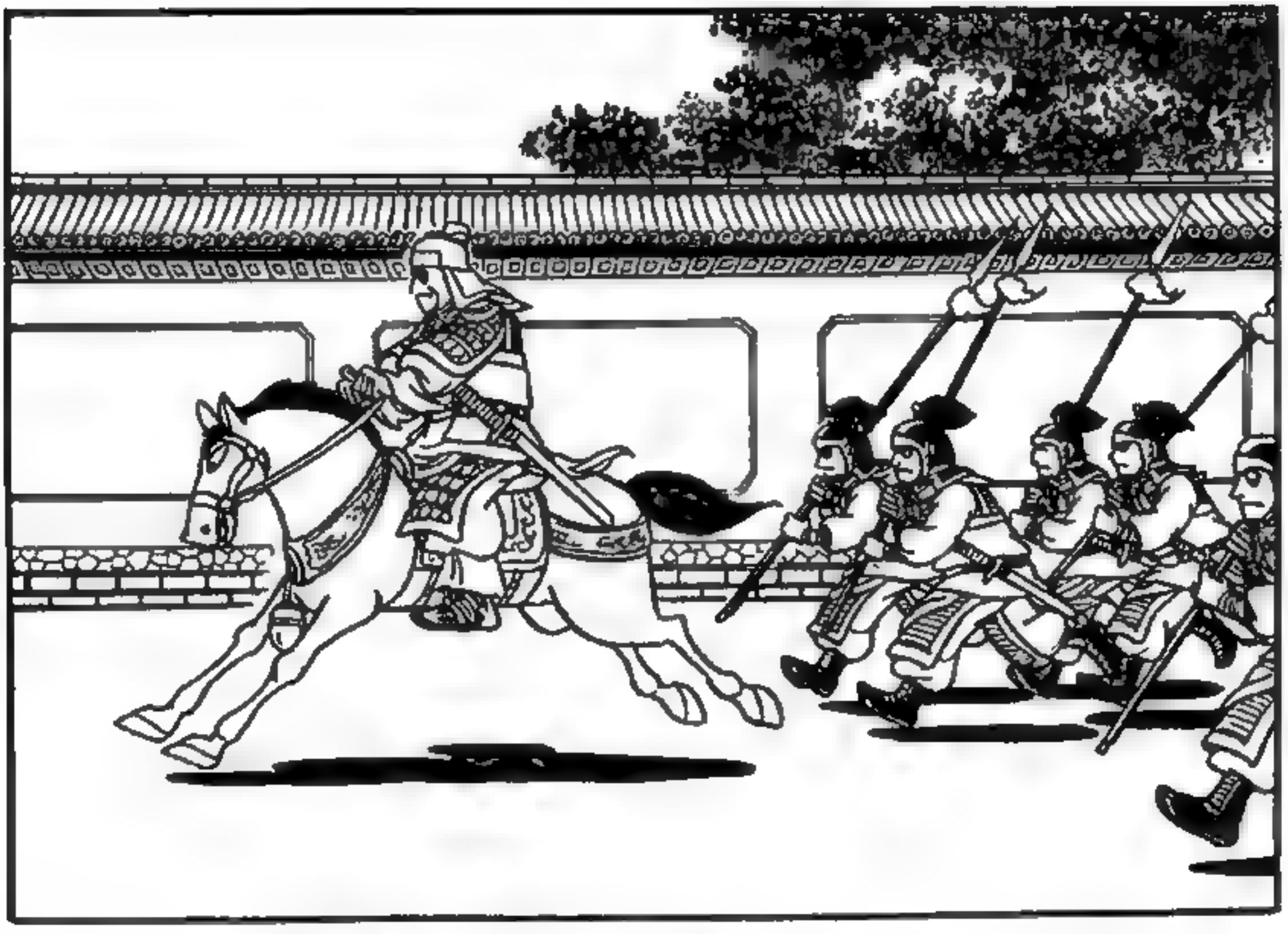
ARREST HER AT ONCE!

WHAT!? SO CONSORT FU WAS BEHIND IT ALL!?

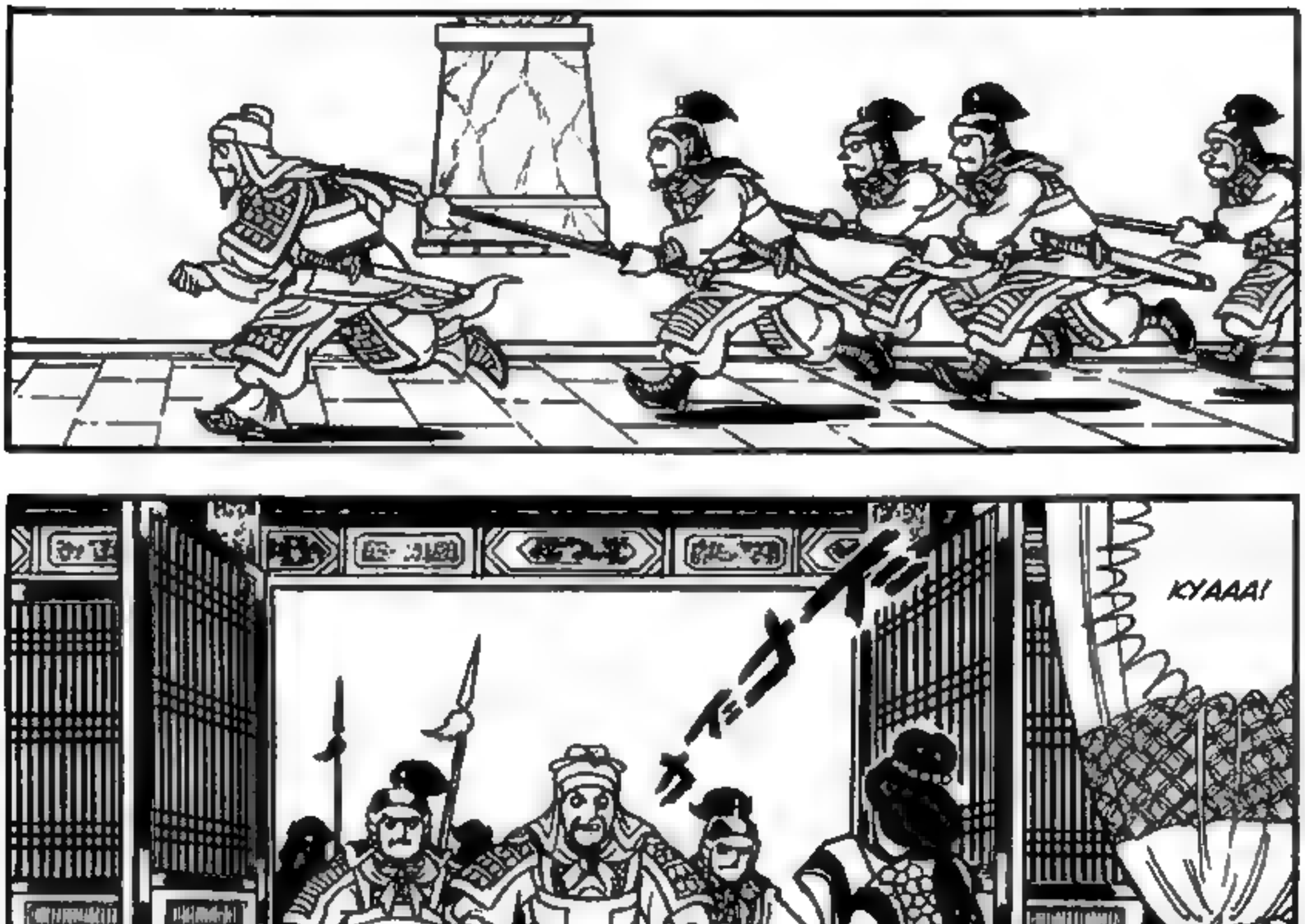
A-ARREST THE EMPRESS CONSORT, SIR...!?

Y-YES, SIR.

ARE YOU DEAF!? I WANT HER ARRESTED NOW!



SILENCE! WE'RE ACTING ON THE DUKE OF WEI'S ORDERS!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!? ARMED SOLDIERS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING THE IMPERIAL QUARTERS!


KYAAA!

CHANCELLOR CAO CAO HAS ORDERED FOR CONSORT FU'S IMMEDIATE ARREST!
W-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

SO HE'S FOUND OUT ABOUT EVERY-THING...

WHAT!?

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

AHH!

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH US!

W-WHAT!?

ARREST HER!

DEAR!

SAVE YOUR TEARS AND EXCUSES FOR THE CHANCELLOR!

YOUR HIGH-NESS!

MINE IS ALSO ONE OF IMPENDING DOOM.

MY FATE IS SEALED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

CONSORT FU!

AGHH!
THIS WAY!

WE ARRESTED CONSORT FU FOR HER TREASONOUS ACTIVITIES. I WOULD ADVISE YOUR HIGHNESS TO SHOW NO CONCERN FOR HER AND HER ILK.

I HAD GIVEN MY BLESSING TO YOU ON YOUR MARRIAGE WITH HIS HIGHNESS, BUT IT HAS COME TO LIGHT THAT YOU WERE PLOTTING AN ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE.

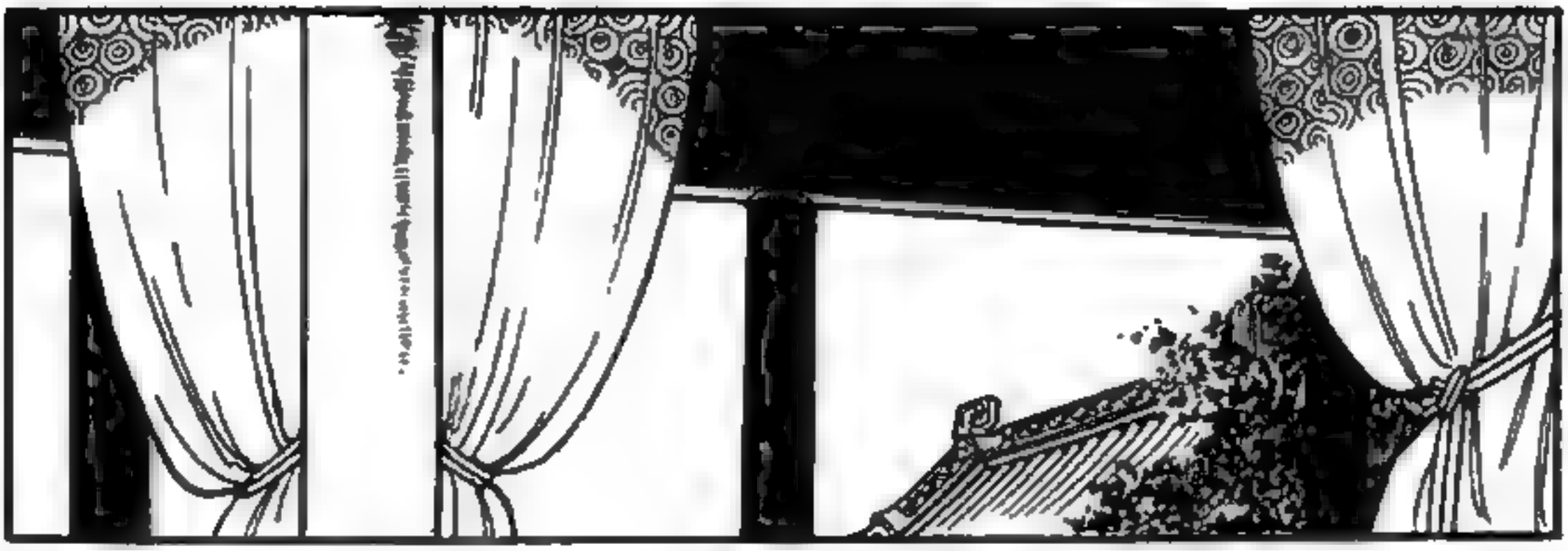
YES, SIR.

TEACH THIS INGRATE A LESSON!

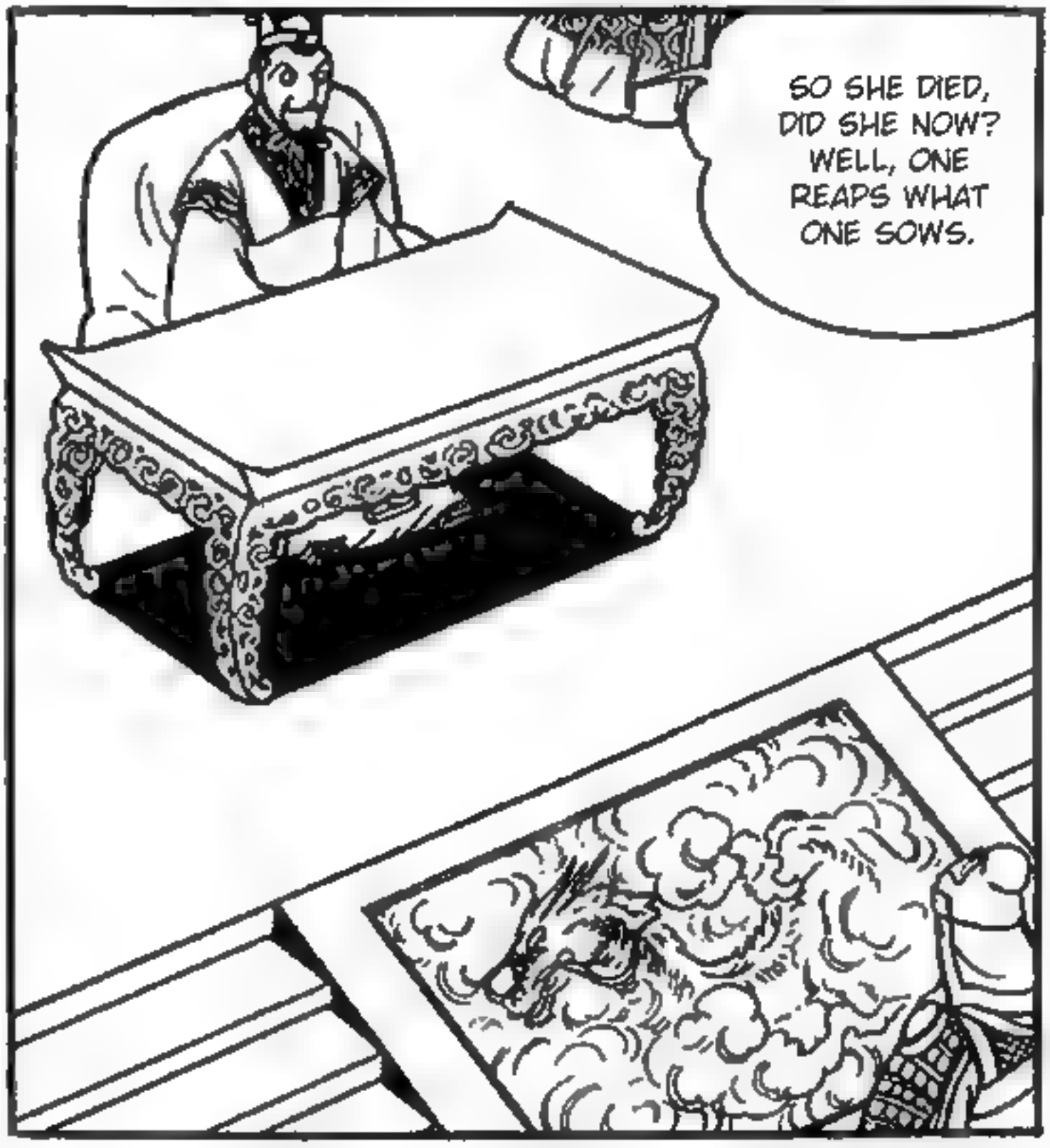
!!!
?

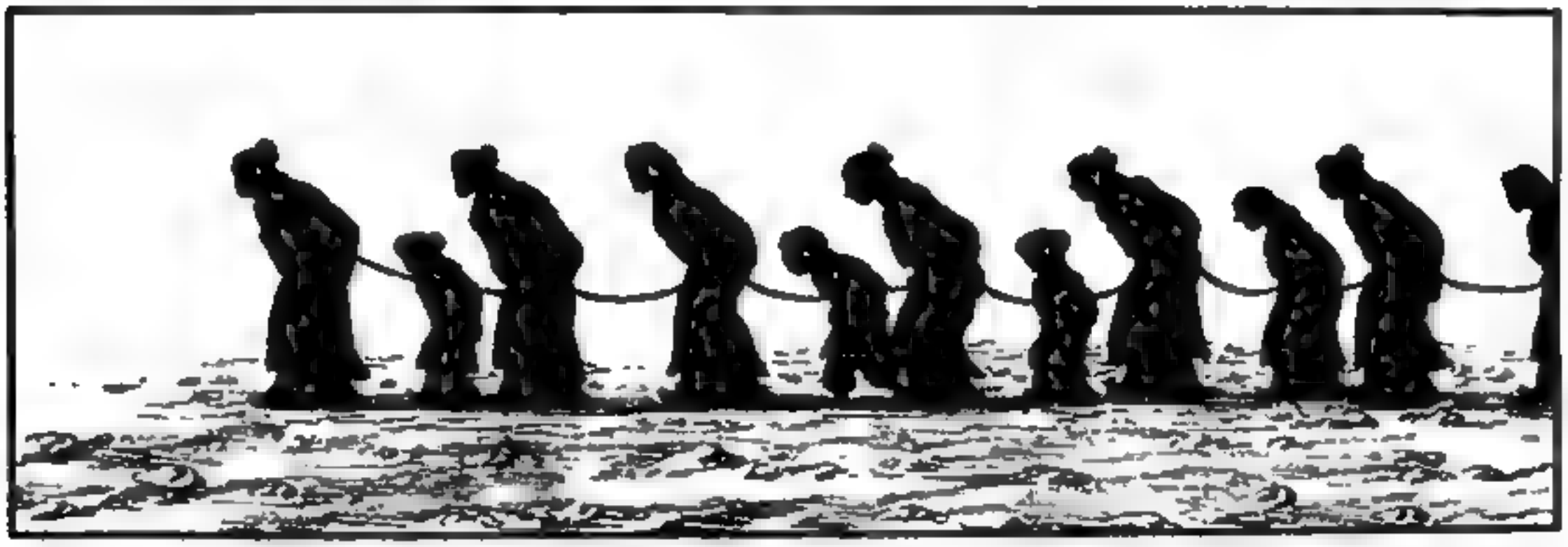
YES.
THIS IS THE RING-LEADER. DO AS YOU WISH.

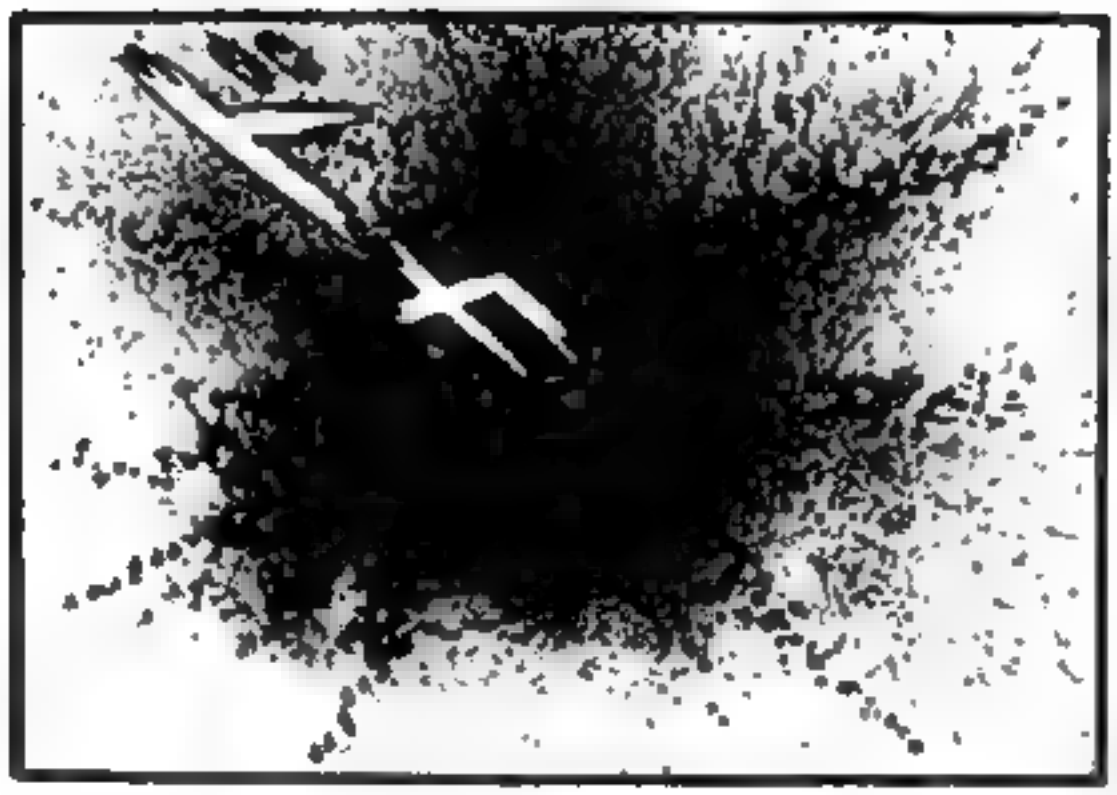
CONSORT
TU WAS
BEATEN TO
DEATH

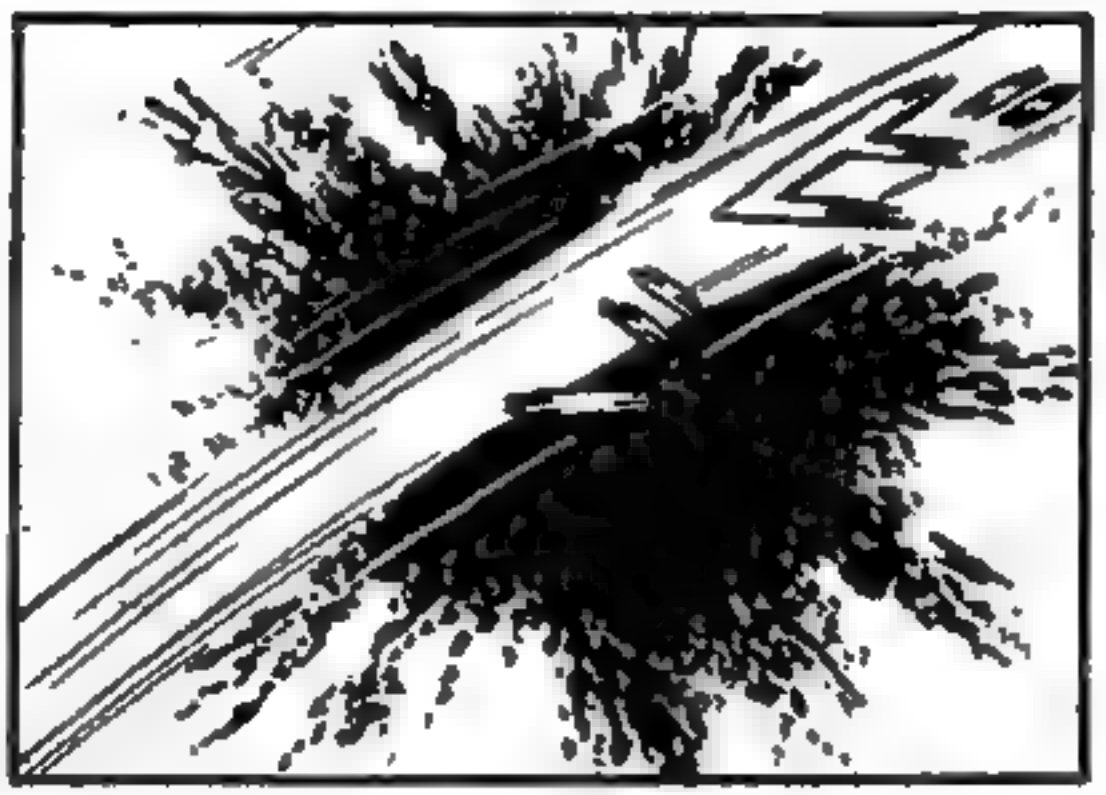


NOW DRAG THE REST OF CONSORT FU AND MU SHUN'S HOUSE-HOLD OUT INTO THE STREETS AND EXECUTE THEM ALL SO THAT NONE WILL DARE TO DEFY MY WILL EVER AGAIN!

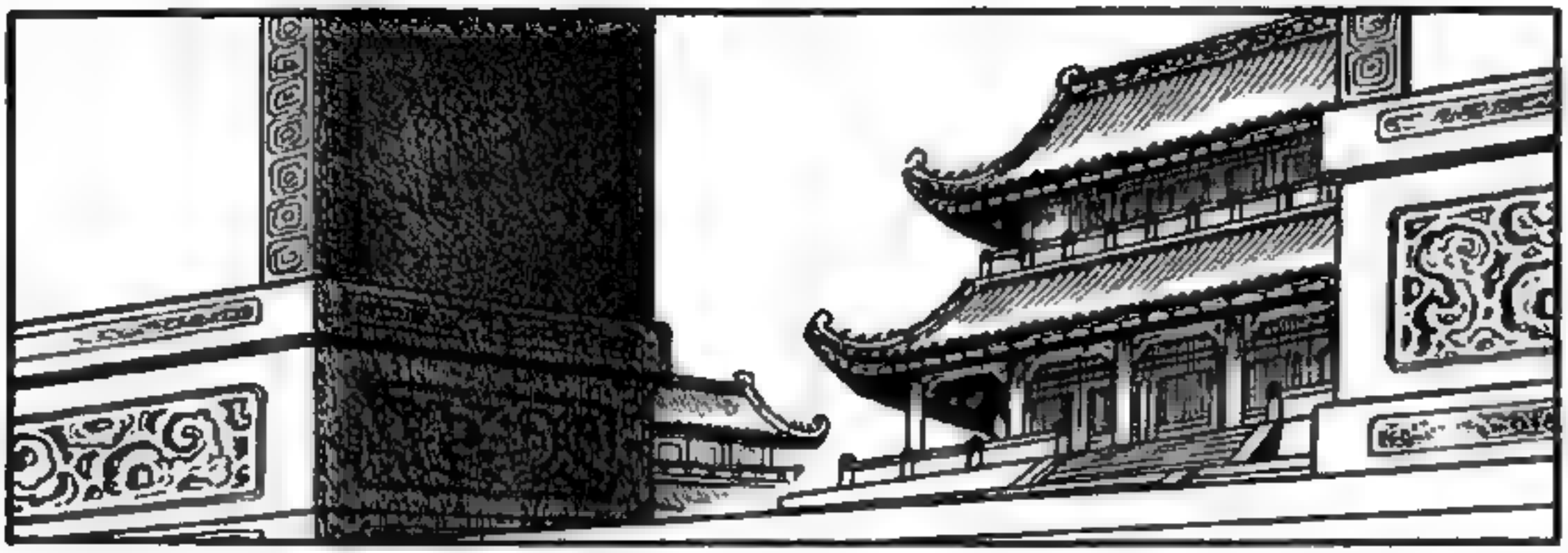

SO SHE DIED, DID SHE NOW? WELL, ONE REAPS WHAT ONE SOWS.

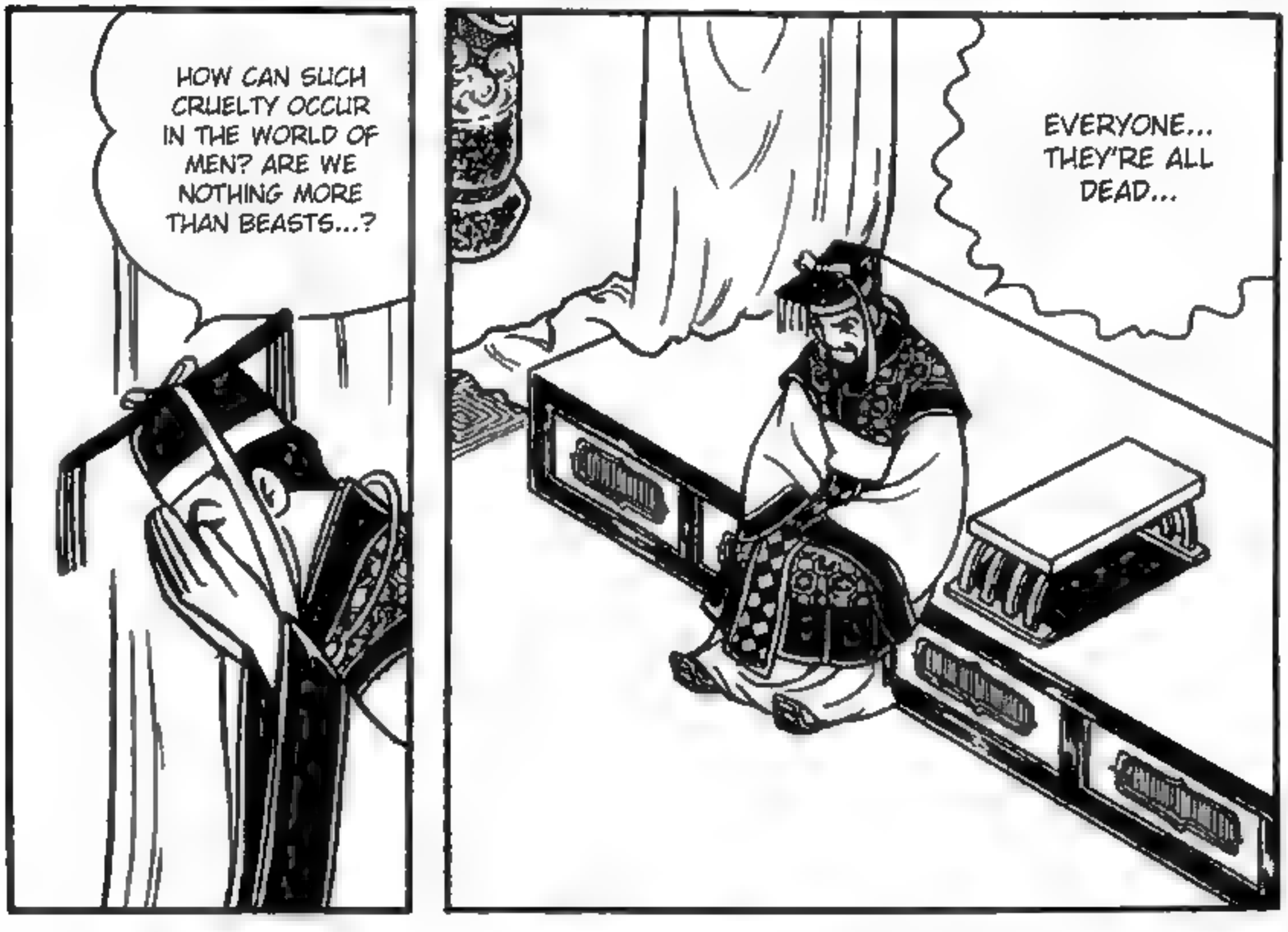


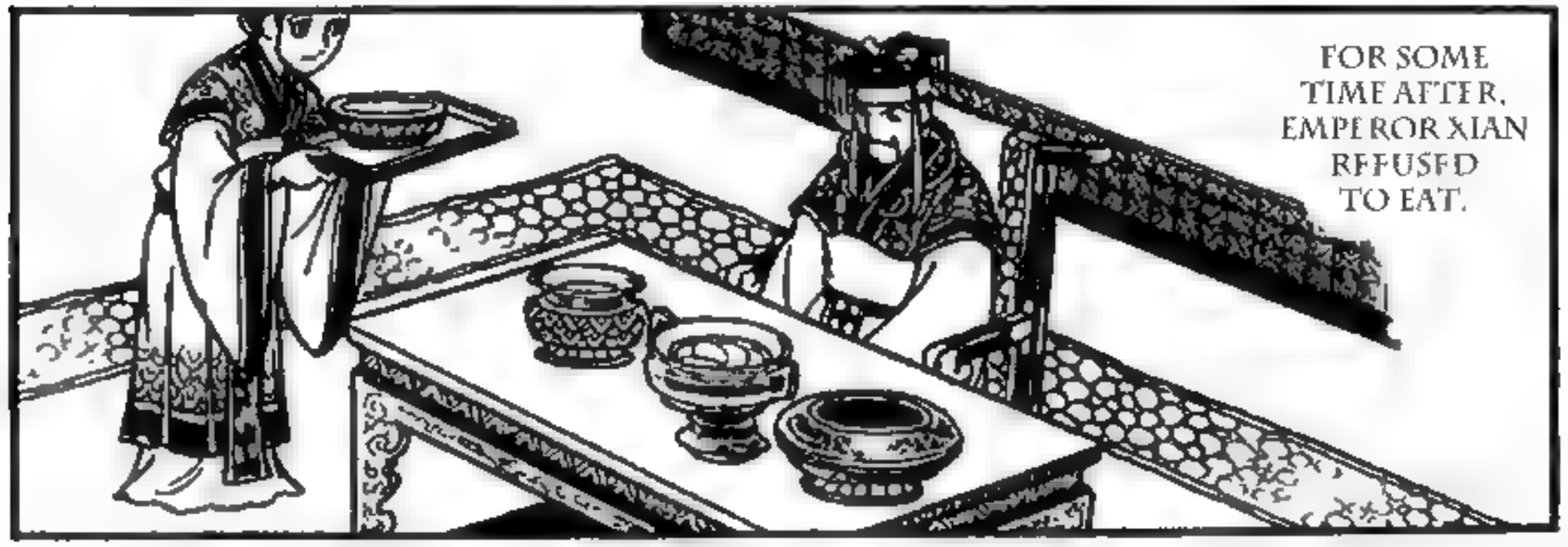




OVER 200 MEMBERS OF CONSORT FU AND MU SHUN'S HOUSEHOLD WERE EXECUTED BEFORE THE DAY WAS OVER. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE 11TH MONTH OF THE 19TH YEAR OF REBUILT TRANQUILITY. (214 A.D.)




HOW CAN SUCH CRUELTY OCCUR IN THE WORLD OF MEN? ARE WE NOTHING MORE THAN BEASTS...?
EVERYONE... THEY'RE ALL DEAD...


FOR SOME TIME AFTER, EMPEROR XIAN REFUSED TO EAT.

HIS HIGHNESS WILL DIE AT THIS RATE, SIR.

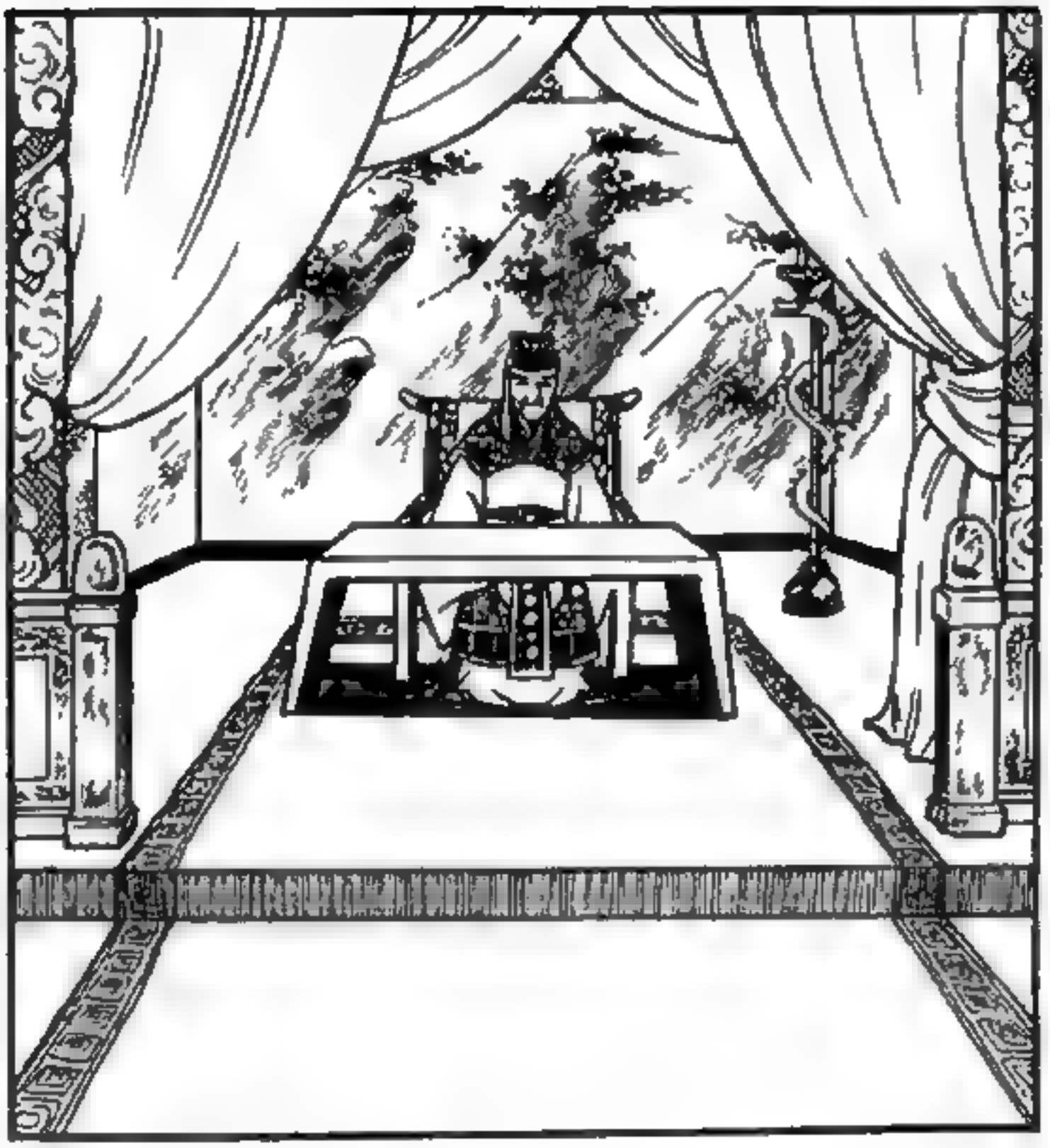
HE STILL WON'T EVEN TOUCH HIS FOOD?

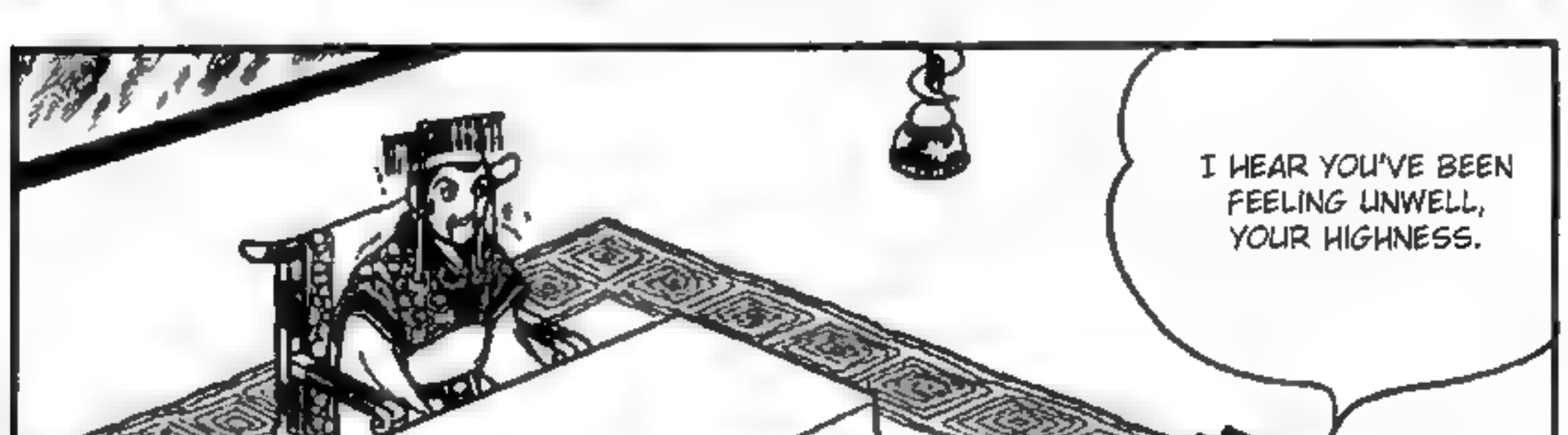
THE EMPEROR MUST EXIST SO THAT I CAN LABEL MY ENEMIES AS TRAITORS OF HAN AND FREELY USE THE IMPERIAL COURT'S AUTHORITY.

THAT'S NOT GOOD. I STILL HAVE USES FOR THE EMPEROR.

I WILL GO SPEAK WITH HIM.

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE CHANCELLOR HAS COME.




I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN FEELING UNWELL, YOUR HIGHNESS.

YOU MUST REALIZE MY HAND WAS FORCED WHEN SUCH A GRAVE PLOT WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT. AN EMPIRE CANNOT BE GOVERNED EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT ANY PAIN.

I, TOO, AM ONE OF YOUR RETAINERS. MY ACTIONS WERE NOT BECAUSE I AM NATURALLY DISPOSED TO CRUELTY NOR VIOLENCE.

"

AHH, THAT REMINDS ME. MY DAUGHTER IS QUITE A WISE AND DUTIFUL GIRL. WHY NOT MAKE HER AS YOUR NEW EMPRESS CONSORT?

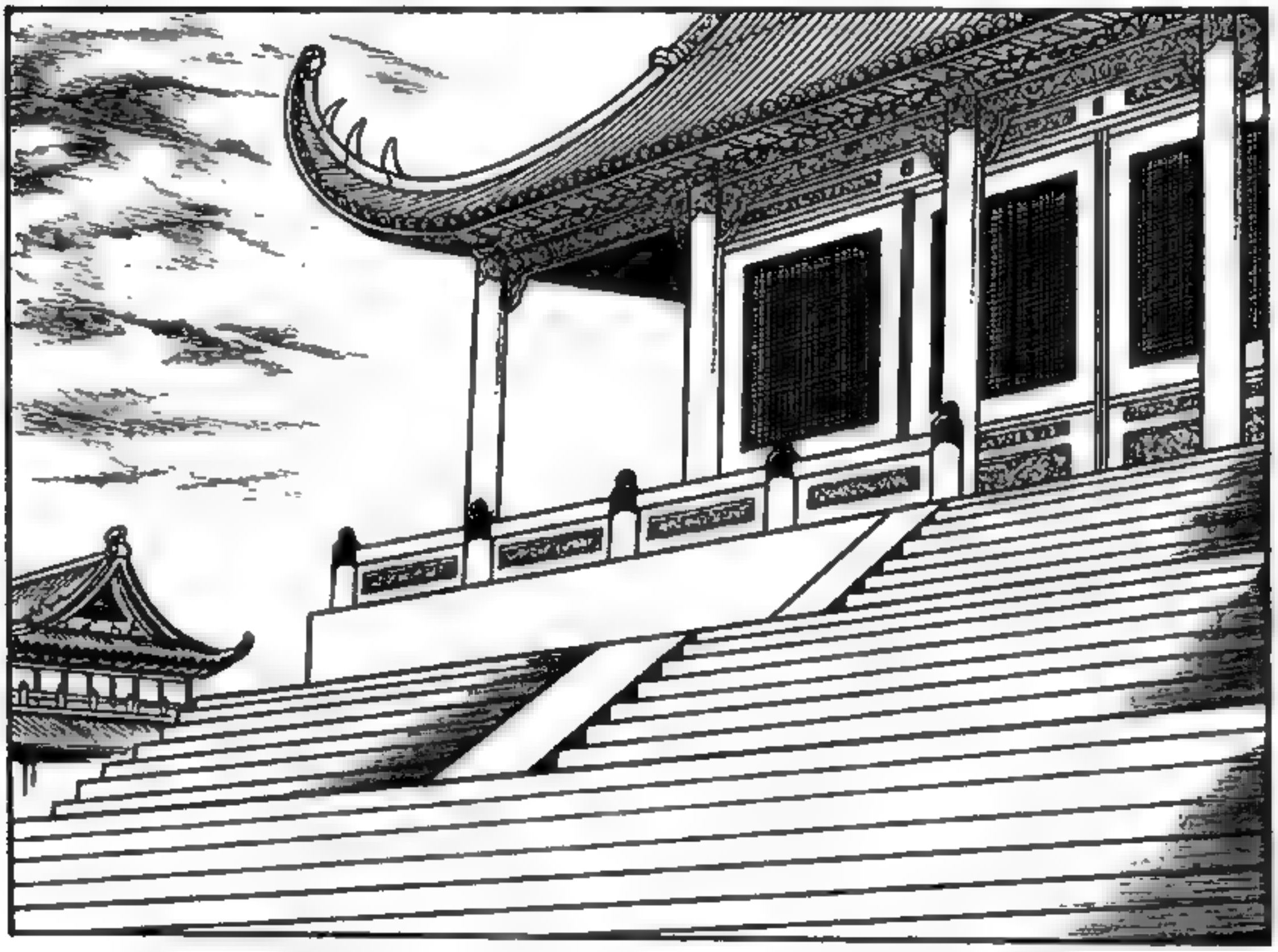
SO PLEASE, I URGE YOU TO PUT THE AFFAIR BEHIND YOU AND ENJOY LIFE.

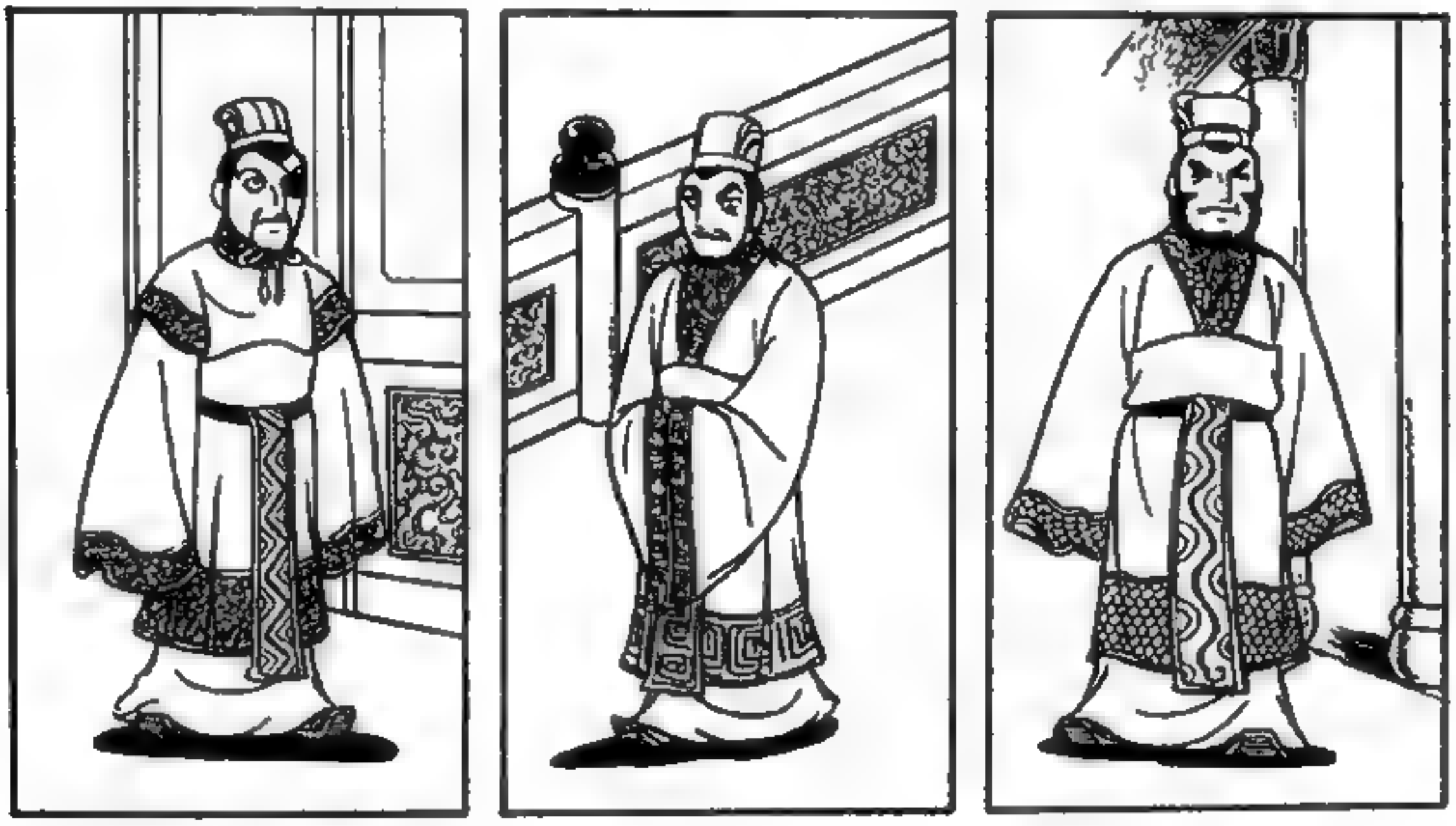
WITH HIS DAUGHTER AS THE NEW EMPRESS, CAO CAO HAD RISEN EVEN HIGHER THAN BEFORE.

NO OBJEC-TIONS, I ASSUME?

DO AS YOU WISH...

WESTERN EXPANSION





YES, I WANTED TO DISCUSS LIU BEI'S RECENT CONQUEST OF SHU.

YOU CALLED FOR US, MY LORD?

IF WE ARE TO MAKE A MOVE ON SHU, WE MUST FIRST TAKE HANZHONG, FOR IT IS THE GATEWAY INTO SHU.

LEAVING SHU ALONE WILL SURELY GROW INTO A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR US. DO YOU MEN HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN DRIVE LIU BEI OUT FROM HIS NEWLY ESTABLISHED POWER BASE?

IT IS GOVERNED BY ZHANG LU AND ITS STRENGTH IS OF NO REAL CONCERN. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONQUER IT WITH NO PROBLEM.

GOOD POINT. WHAT'S THE STATUS IN HANZHONG CURRENTLY?

THEN IT IS SETTLED. WE WILL START WITH A CAMPAIGN ON HANZHONG.

I SEE.

ONCE HANZHONG HAS BEEN PACIFIED, WE CAN DRIVE HOME OUR SUCCESS BY INVADING SHU AT ONCE.

THUS, A WESTERN INVASION FORCE WAS ASSEMBLED

XIAHOU YUAN AND ZHANG HE LED THE VANGUARD FORCES

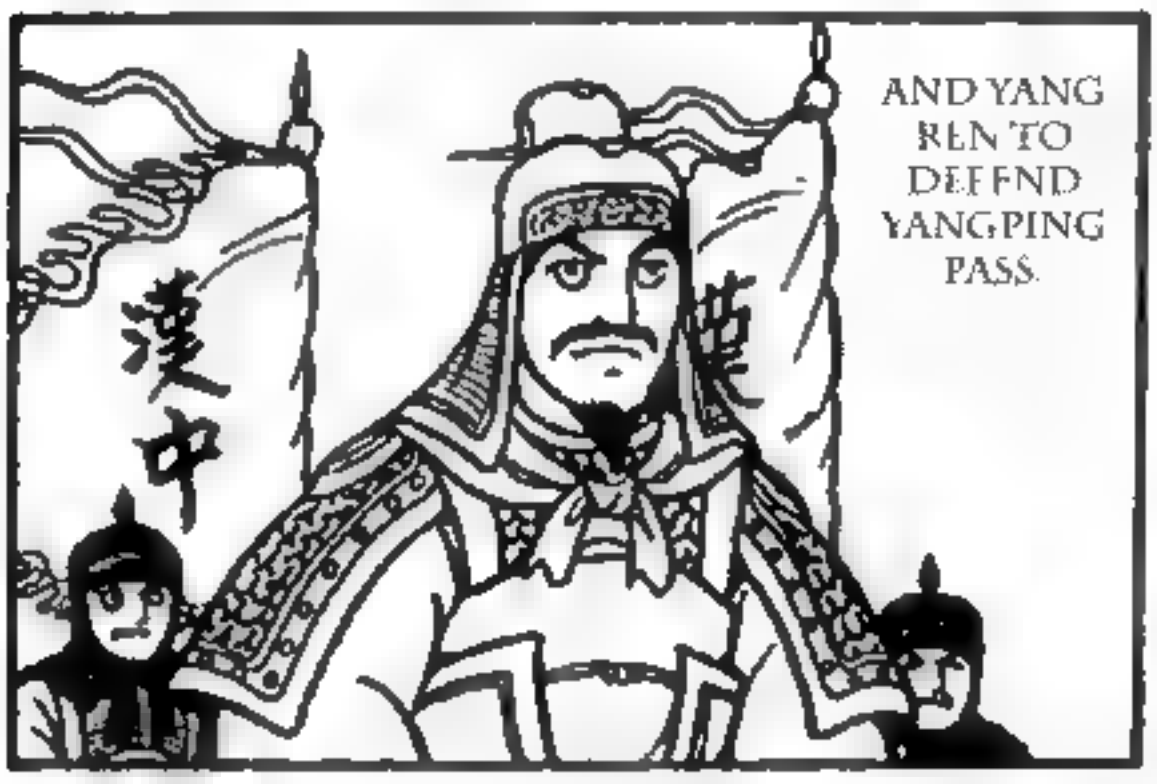
CAO CAO HIMSELF COMMANDED THE CENTER.

WHILE CAO REN AND XIAHOU DUN PROTECTED THE REAR.

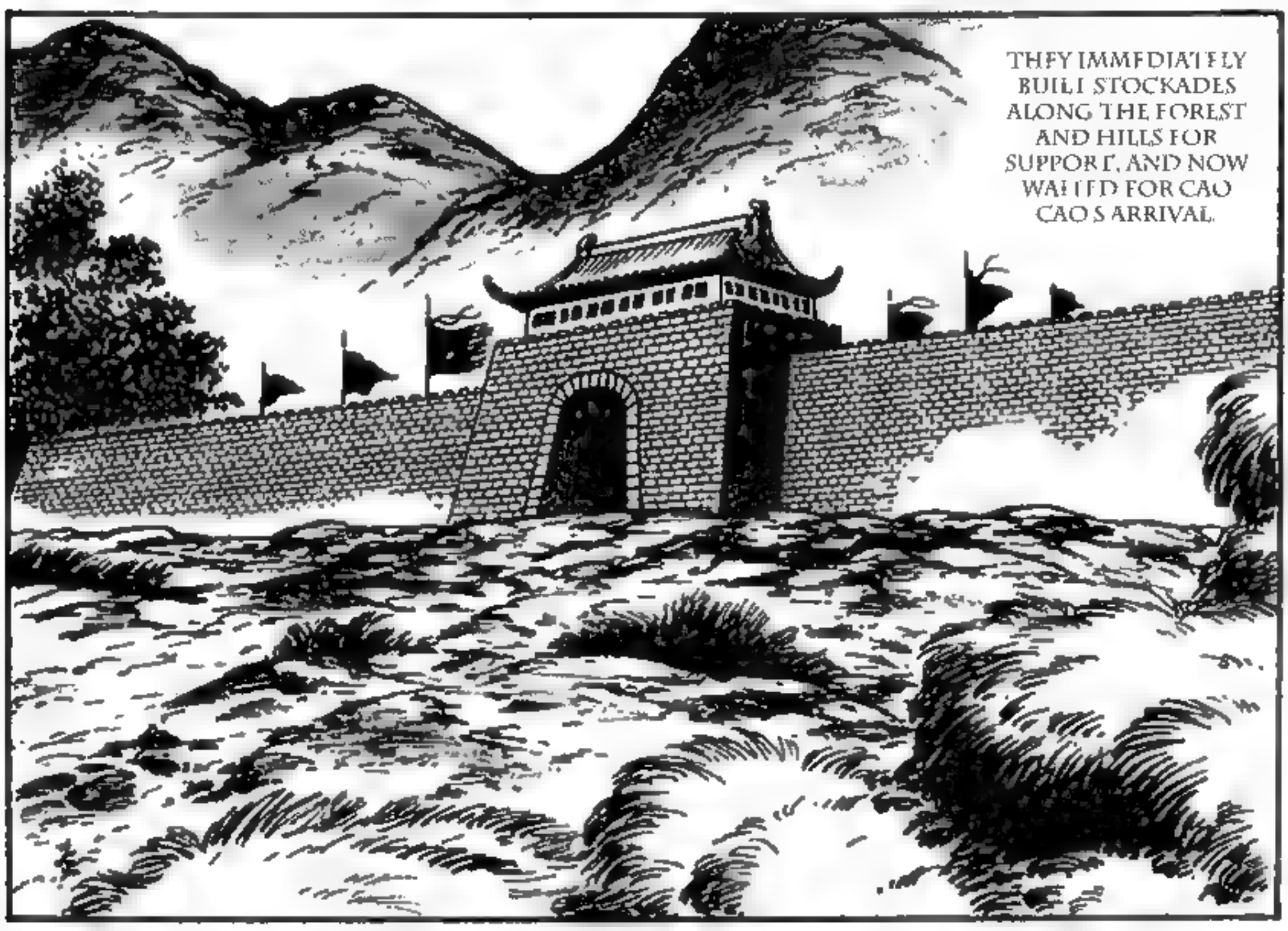
WORD OF THE INVASION QUICKLY REACHED HANZHONG

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DISCUSSION, ZHANG LU DECIDED THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO HOLD OFF THE INVADING ARMY AT YANGPING PASS. THE TOUGHEST FORTRESS IN HANZHONG

漢中
漢中
ZHANG LU S YOUNGER BROTHER WAS APPOINTED THE COM-MANDER.


漢中
AND YANG REN TO DEFEND YANGPING PASS.

楊昌
漢中
AND HE WAS SENT WITH YANG ANG.


THEY IMMEDIATELY BUILT STOCKADES ALONG THE FOREST AND HILLS FOR SUPPORT, AND NOW WAITED FOR CAO CAO S ARRIVAL.

IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE WEI VANGUARD ARRIVED

SEEING THE WELL-FORTIFIED YANGPING PASS,

THE VANGUARD DECIDED TO SET UP CAMP 15 LI AWAY FROM THE PASS

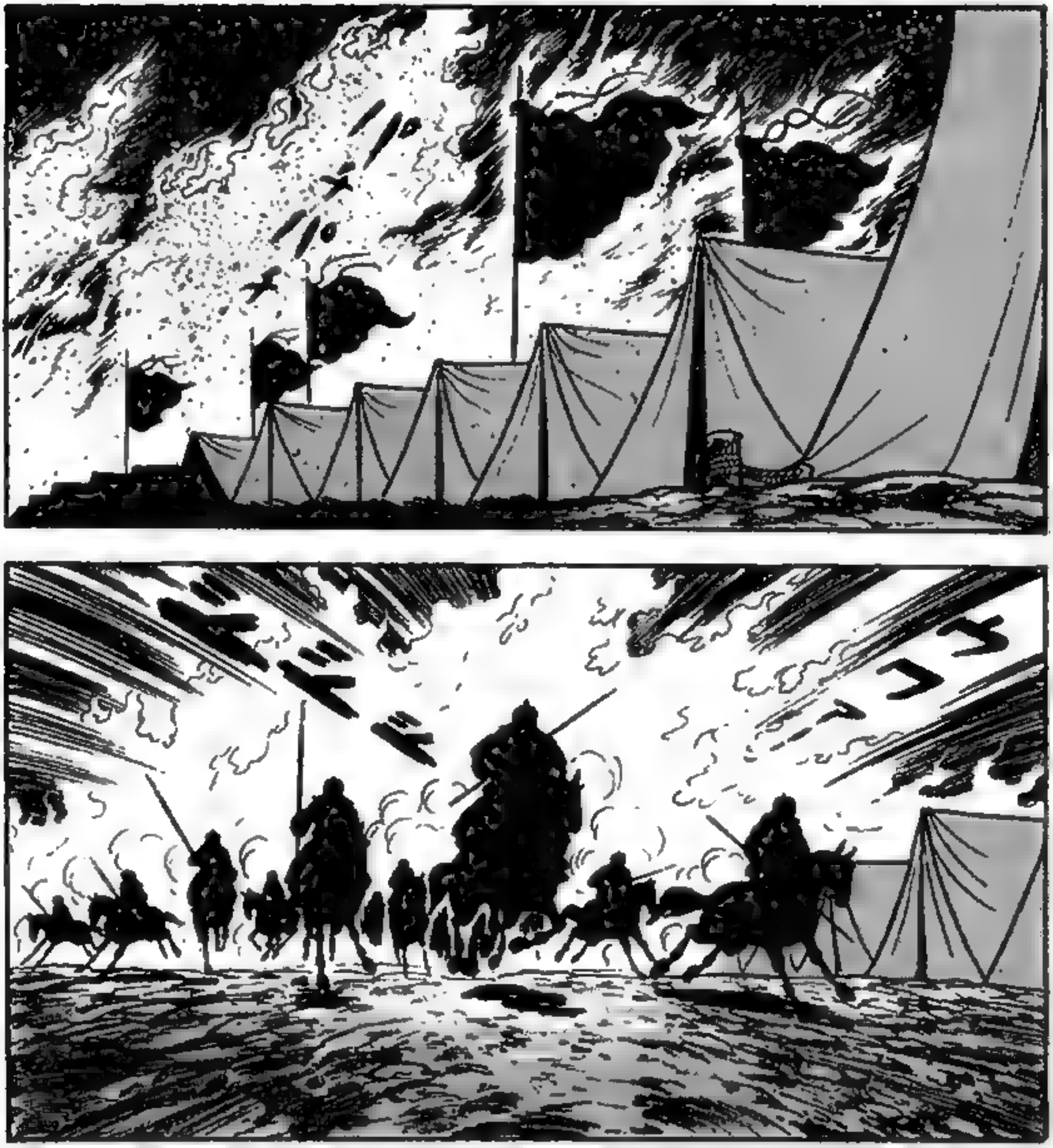
THAT NIGHT, THE WEI SOLDIERS FELL FAST ASLEEP, HAVING MARCHED A LONG WAY

HUH?

HM?

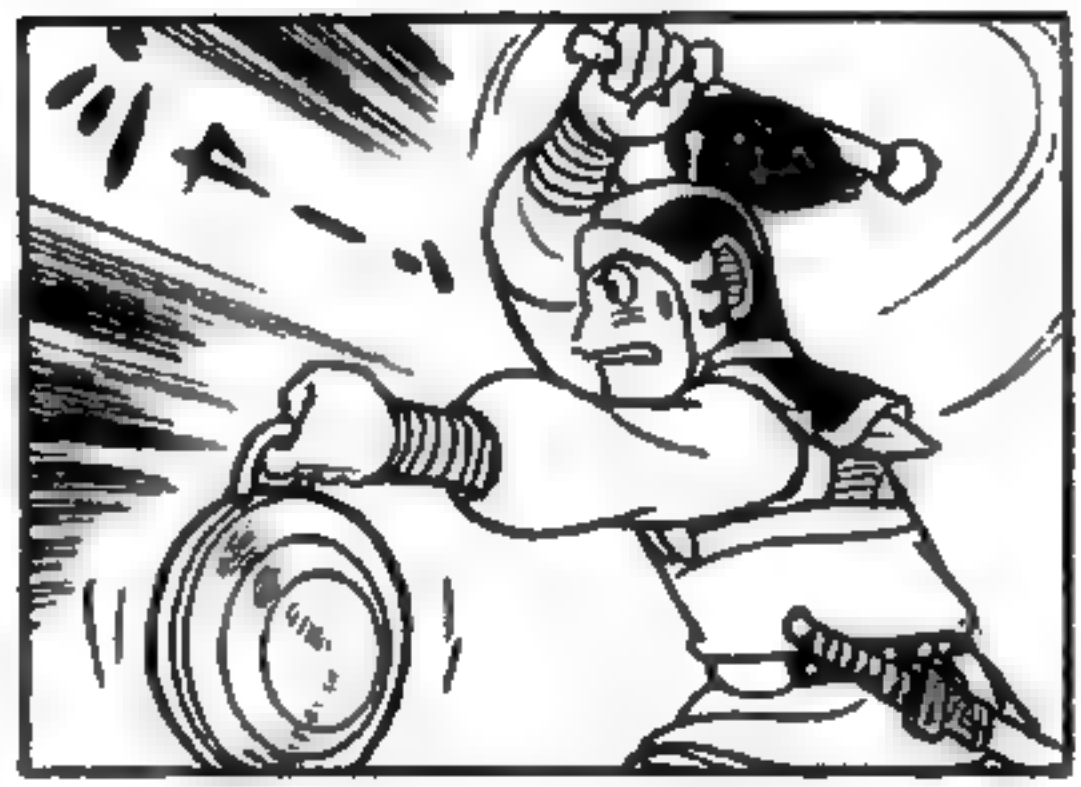
AHH!

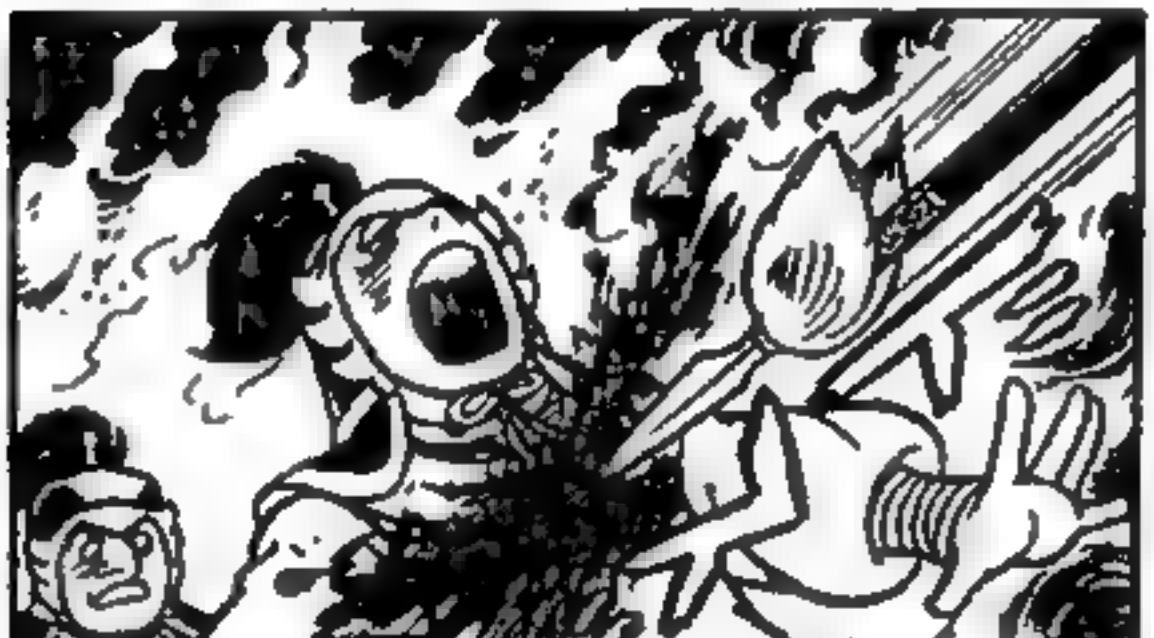
WHAT'S GOING ON!?



ENEMY RAID!

IT'S AN ENEMY RAID!





RETREAT! ABANDON CAMPS AND RETREAT!

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! WHY DO YOU THINK I PLACED YOU TWO IN CHARGE OF THE ALL-IMPORTANT VANGUARD!? TO THINK SUCH EXPERIENCED GENERALS AS YOU WOULD BE UNAWARE OF ONE OF THE MOST BASIC PRINCIPLES OF WAR: "AFTER A LONG MARCH, BE WARY OF RAIDS."

FOR THE HEAVY CRIME OF CARE-LESSLY LOSING BRAVE SOLDIERS AND PLUMMETING MORALE, I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!

TO KILL TWO OF OUR OWN GENERALS WILLINGLY WHEN WE'VE YET TO KILL A SINGLE ENEMY OFFICER WOULD ONLY GIVE OUR ENEMIES THE ADVANTAGE.

MY LORD, I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER.

FINE, I SHALL PARDON THE EXECUTION. BUT MAKE SURE TO REDEEM YOURSELVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MNNN...

YES, SIR!

YES, SIR.
LET US GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ENEMY CAMPS.

SUCH WEAK TALK DOES NOT BEFIT YOU, CHANCELLOR.
THIS IS QUITE THE ROUGH TERRAIN. HAD I KNOWN IN ADVANCE, I WOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE...

SO THIS IS WHERE ZHANG WEI HAS SET UP HIS BASE.

HM?

HMM... THIS WILL BE QUITE THE DIFFICULT PASS TO TAKE.

XU HUANG, ESCORT OUR LORD SAFELY BACK TO CAMP. I WILL HOLD THE ENEMIES OFF!
YES.
AGHHH! IT'S AN ENEMY AMBUSH!

YES.
QUICKLY, SIR. WE MUST ESCAPE.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SWARM ME IN THIS NARROW PATH!
I, XU CHU, WILL NOT ALLOW YOU!

CHASE AFTER CAO CAO!

NGHH!

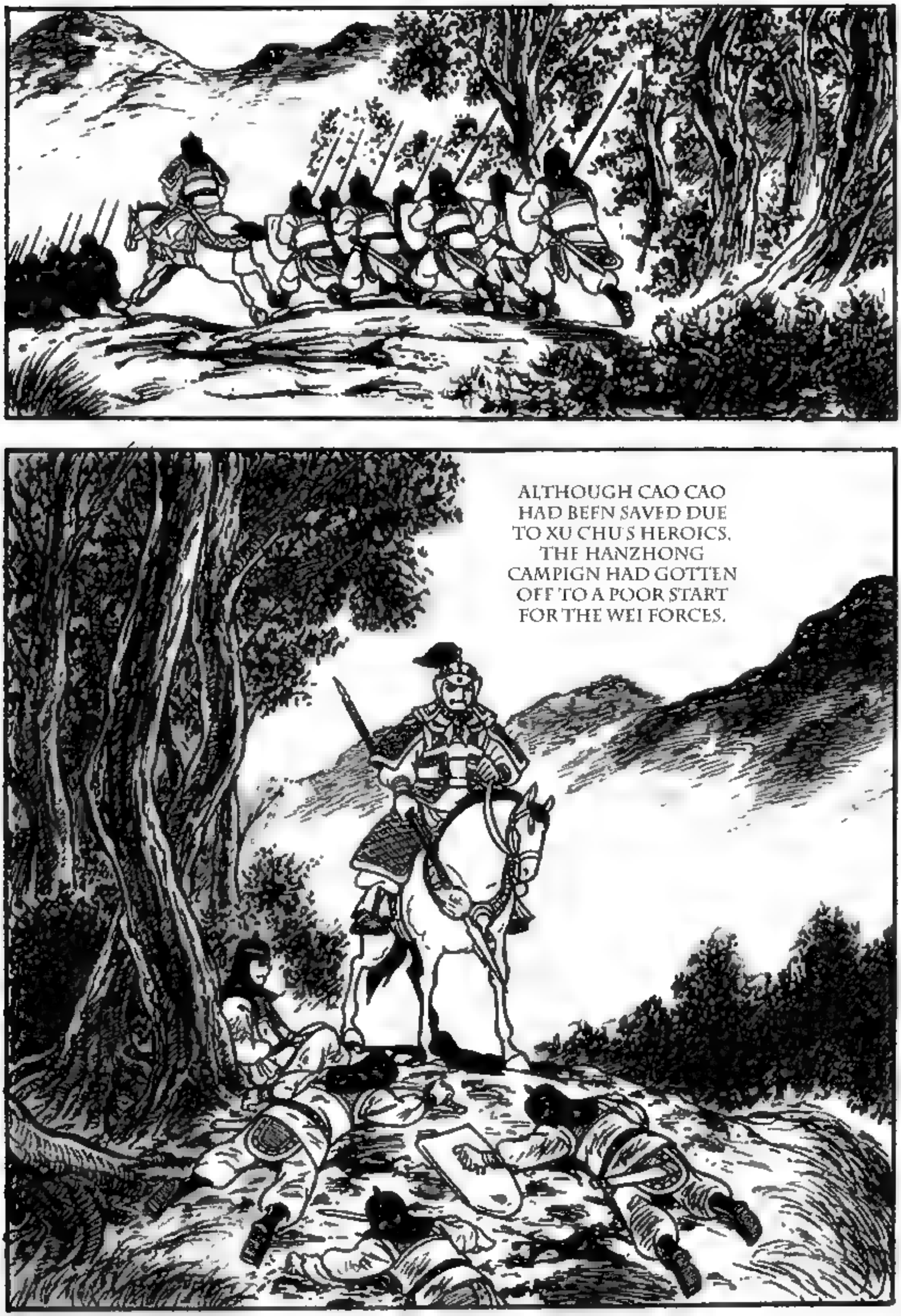
HE MAY BE ONLY ONE MAN, BUT HE'S GUARDING SUCH A NARROW PATH...

CURSES! STOPPED BY ONE WARRIOR!

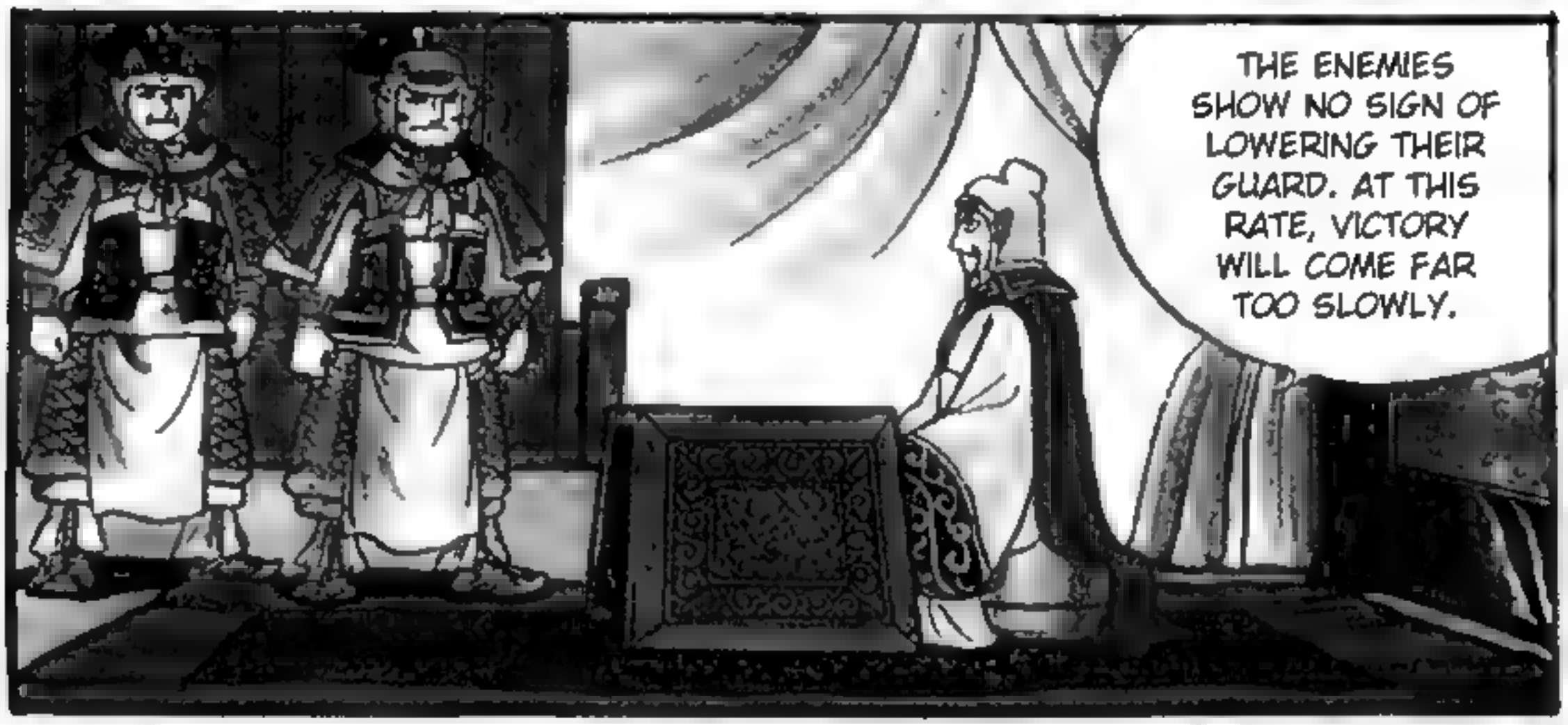
S-SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS XU CHU...

RETREAT FOR NOW, MEN!

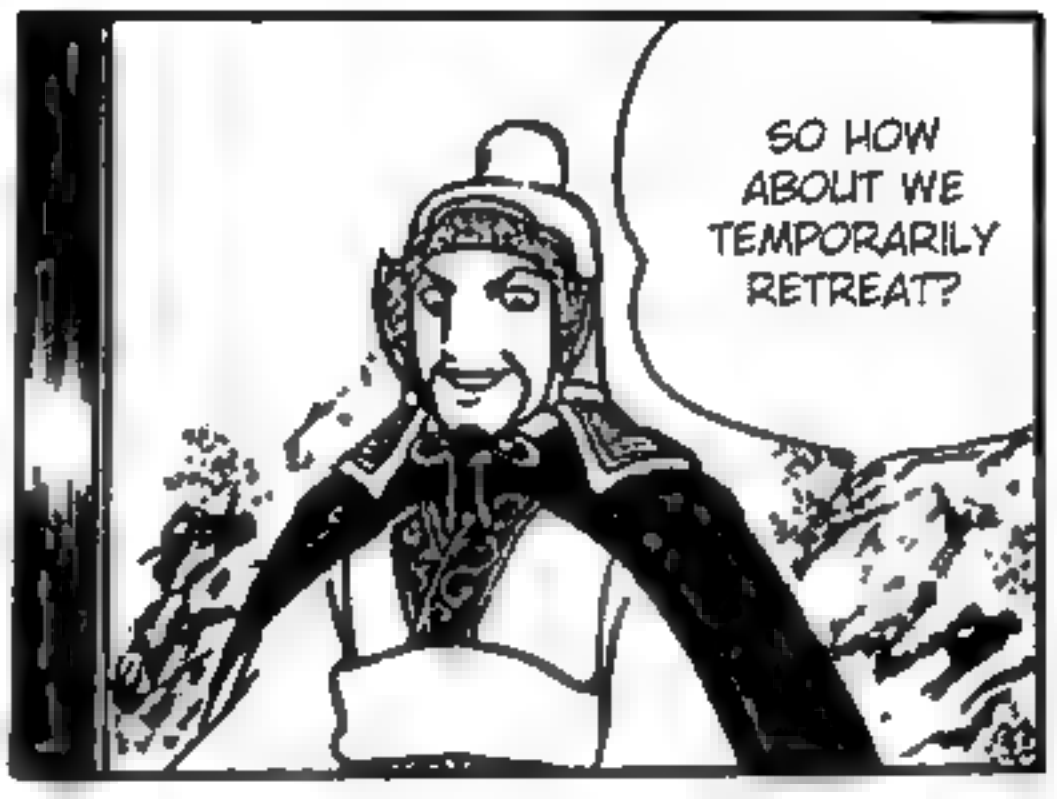
WE LOST A BIG CHANCE TODAY...

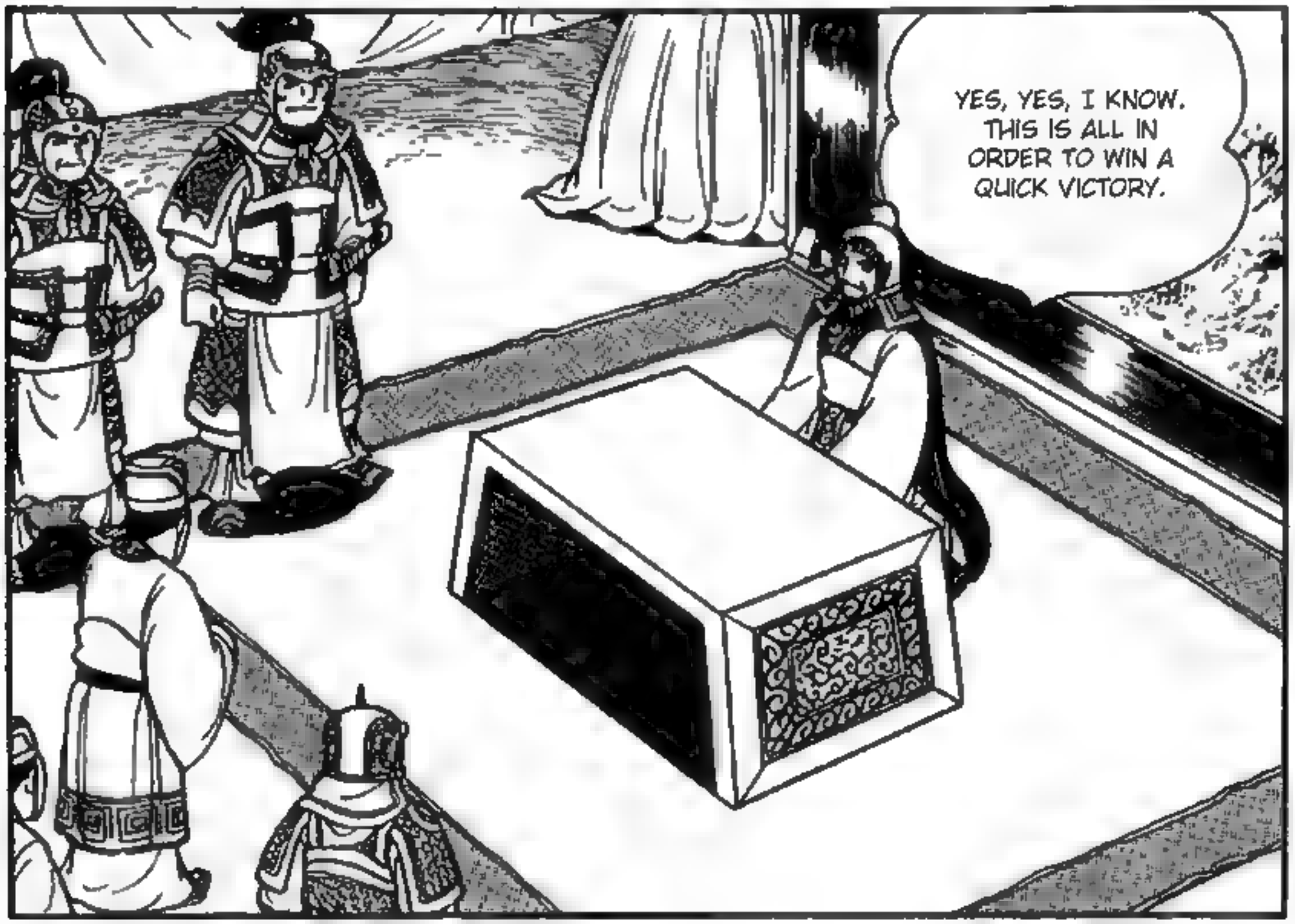

ALTHOUGH CAO CAO
HAD BEEN SAVED DUE
TO XU CHU'S HEROICS,
THE HANZHONG
CAMPIGN HAD GOTTEN
OFF TO A POOR START
FOR THE WEI FORCES.

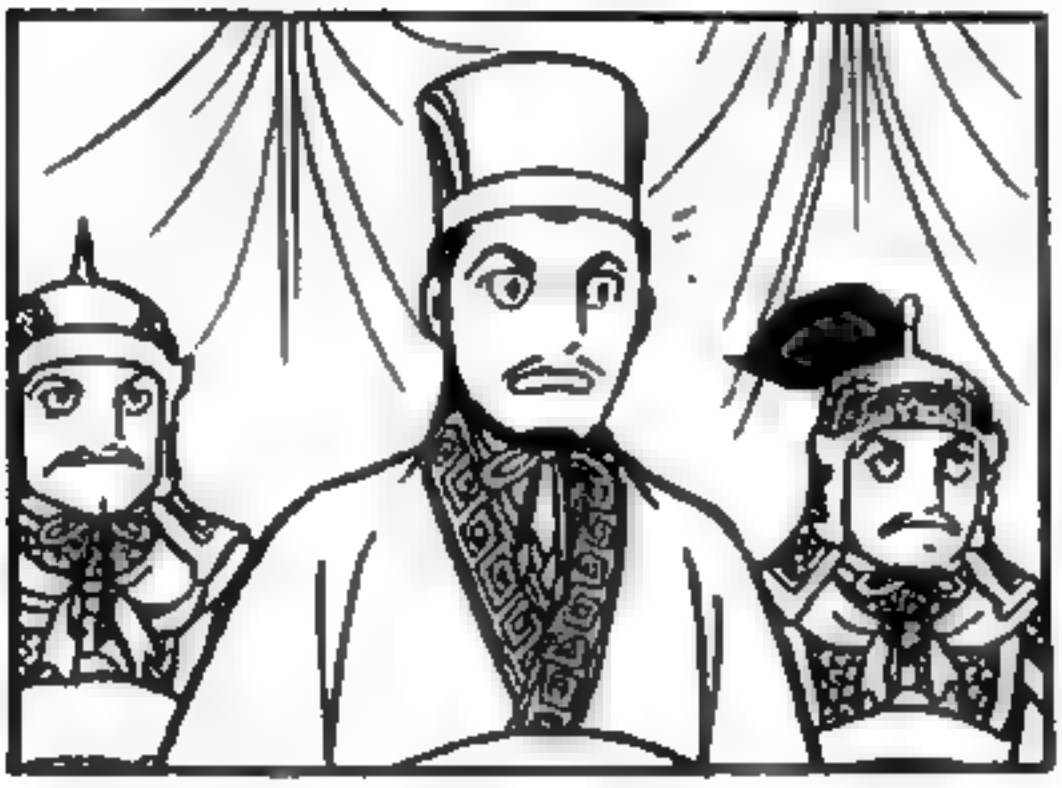
BATTLE IN THICK FOG



RETREAT!? BUT WE'VE BARELY BEGUN TO FIGHT, CHANCELLOR.


SO HOW ABOUT WE TEMPORARILY RETREAT?


YES, YES, I KNOW. THIS IS ALL IN ORDER TO WIN A QUICK VICTORY.



WHAT I'M PROPOSING IS TO STAGE A FALSE RETREAT TO HAVE THEM LOWER THEIR GUARDS, AND THEN SEND PART OF OUR FORCES SECRETLY BEHIND THE ENEMIES.

XIAHOU YUAN, ZHANG HE.

AH, OF COURSE... MY APOLOGIES FOR DOUBTING YOU, CHANCELLOR.

YES, SIR.

TAKE 3000 SOLDIERS TO THE REAR OF YANGPING AND WASH AWAY THE DISGRACE FROM YOUR PREVIOUS BATTLE.

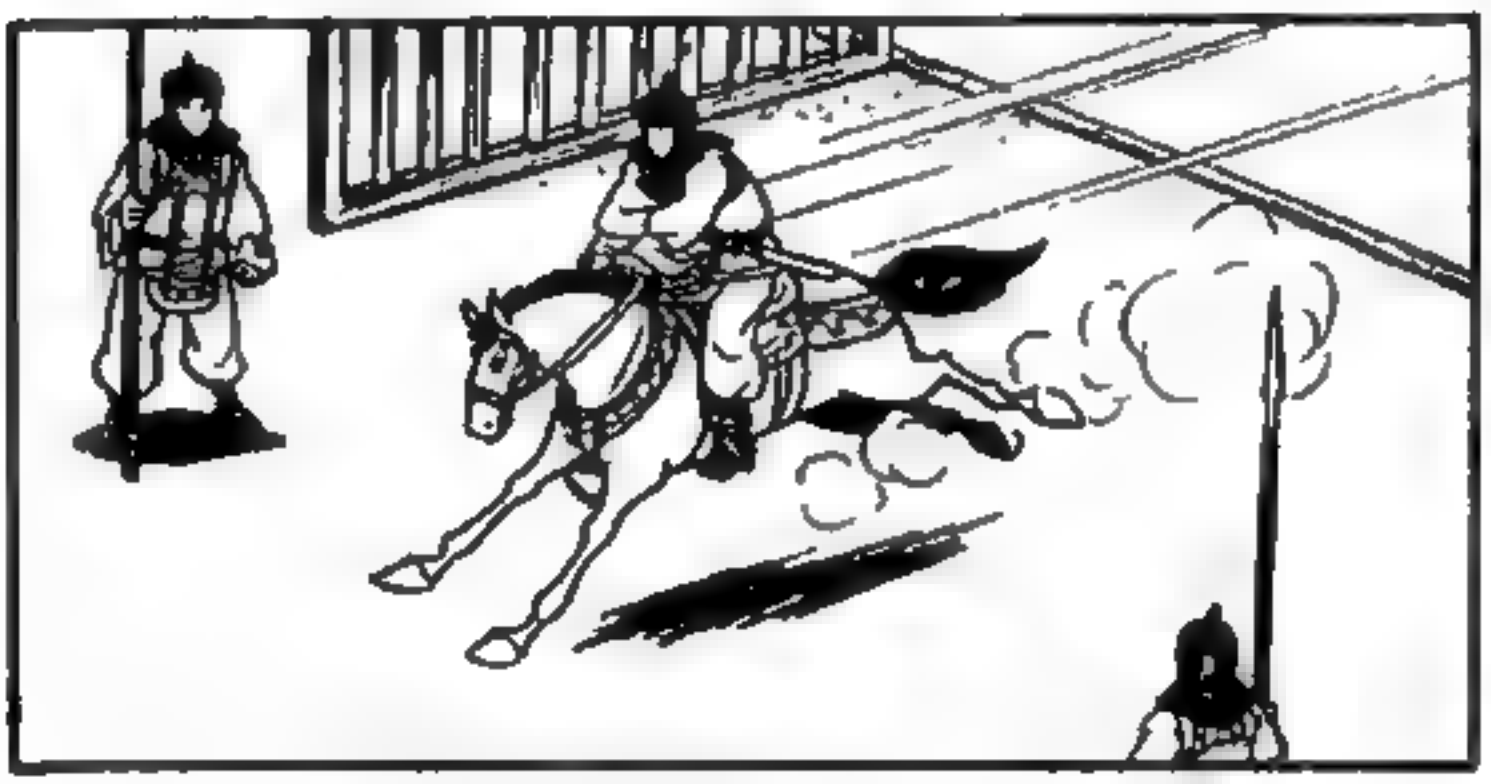
YES, SIR!

YES?

YES, SIR!

YES, SIR!

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, START RETREATING YOUR FORCES NOW.



SIR! THE ENEMIES ARE RETREATING!

CAO CAO IS A CRAFTY FIGURE. IT IS FAR BETTER FOR US TO TIGHTEN OUR DEFENSES AND STAY HERE.

NO, I OPPOSE.

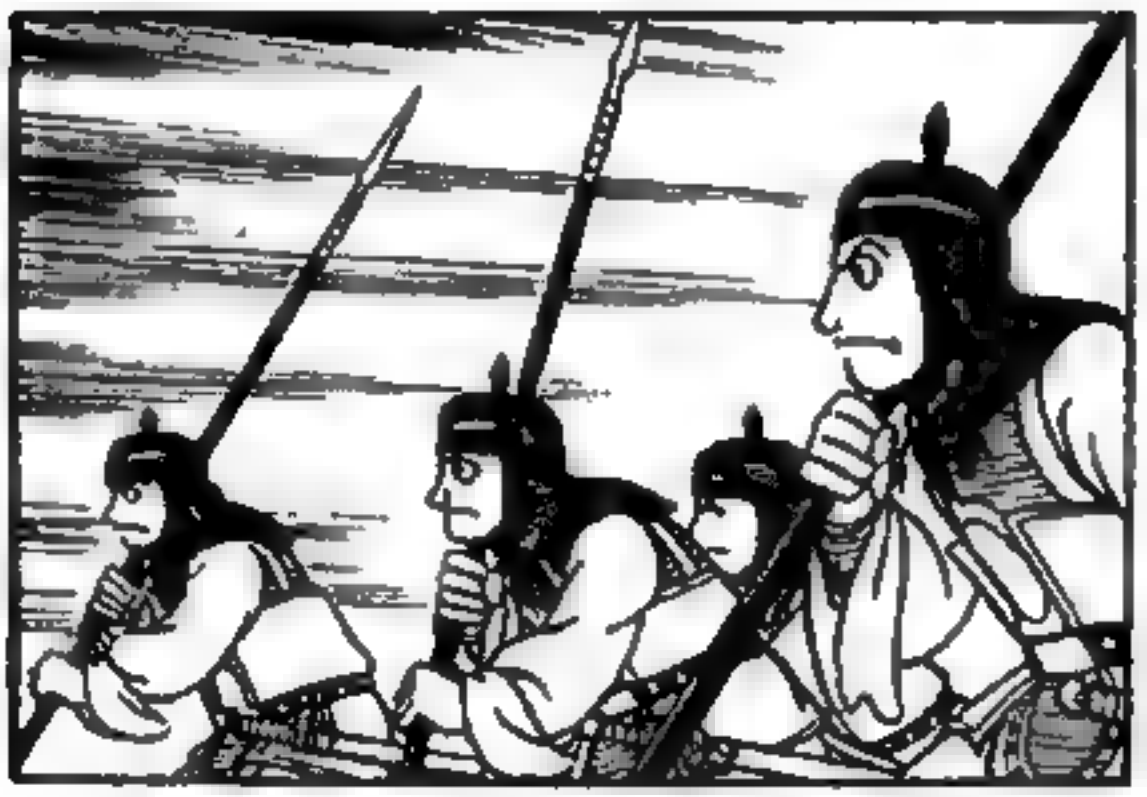
YANG REN, LET US PURUSE THEM AT ONCE!

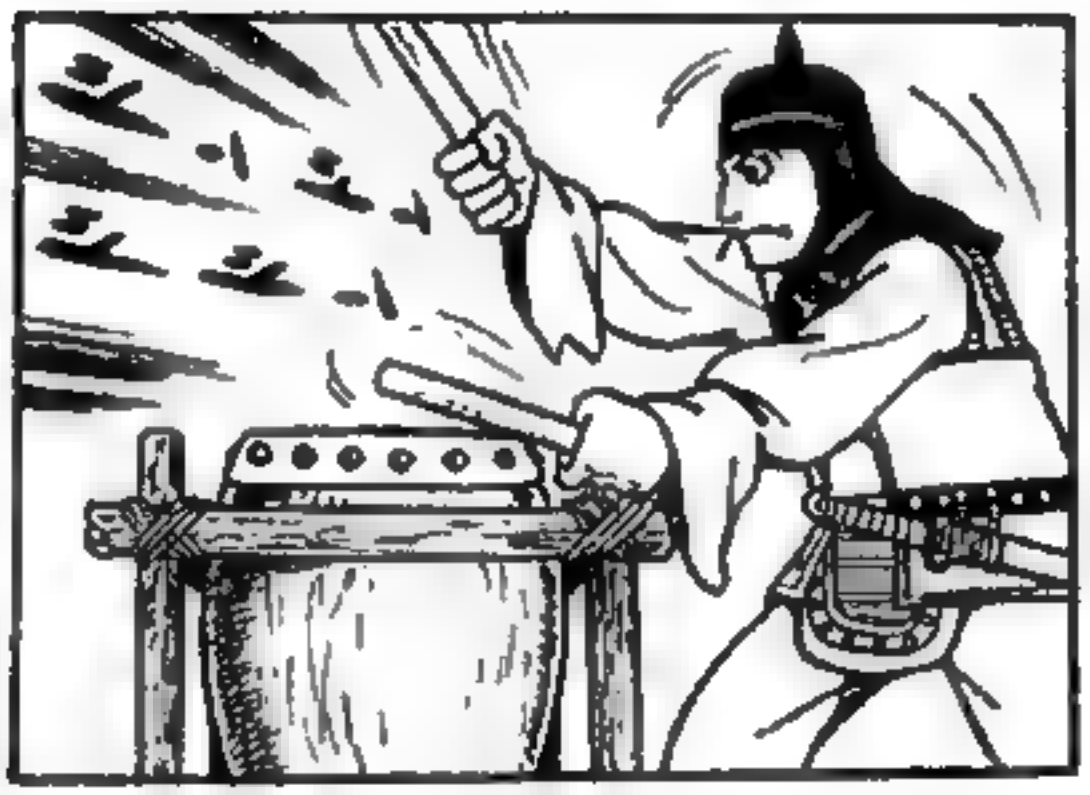
FINE, THEN I'LL PURSUE THEM ON MY OWN!

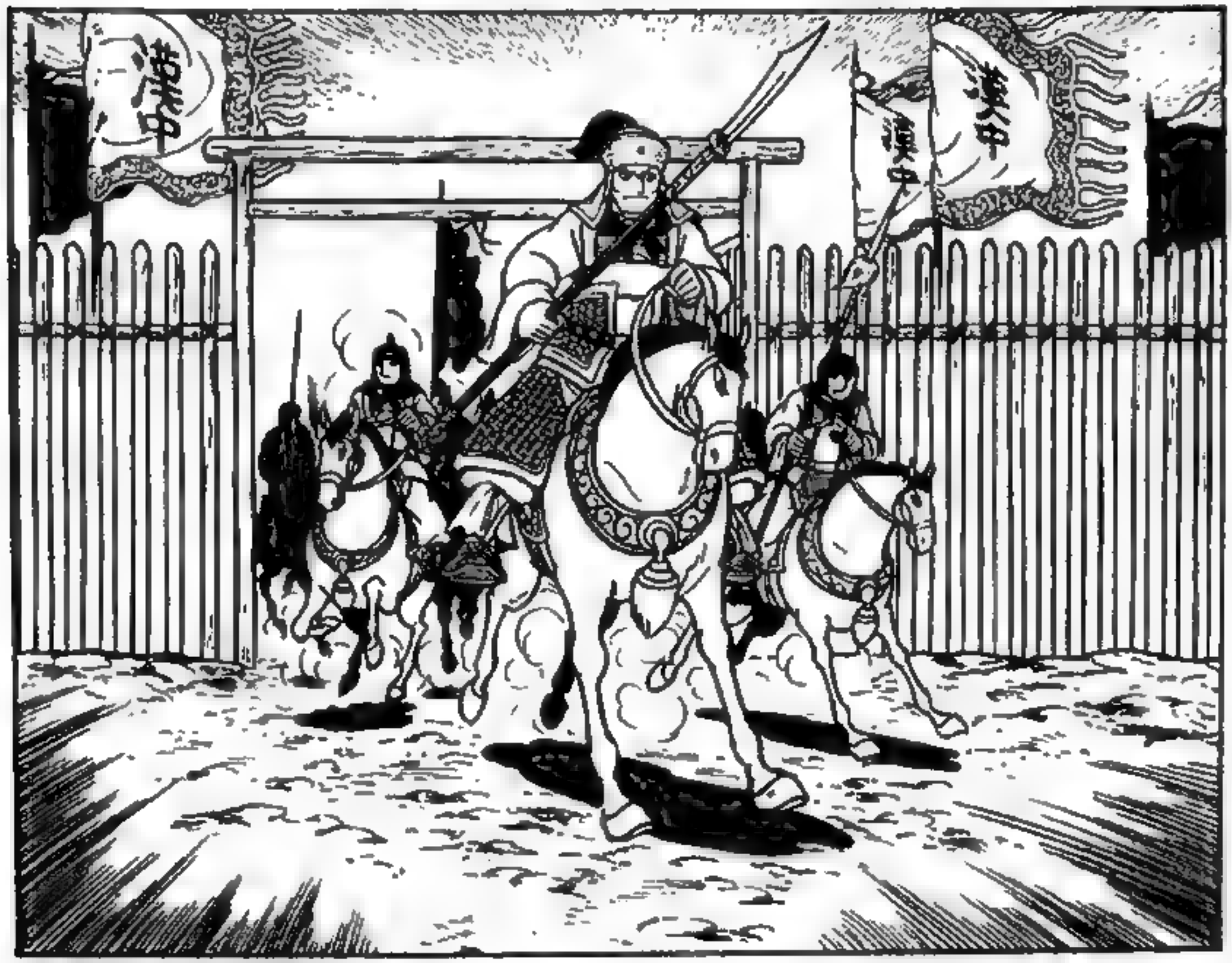
NO, I REFUSE NO MATTER WHAT YOU NOR ANYONE ELSE SAYS.

NO, WE MUST PURSUE THEM AND CRUSH THEM NOW WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE! THAT IS OUR ONLY WAY TO VICTORY.

TROOPS! PREPARE TO ATTACK!

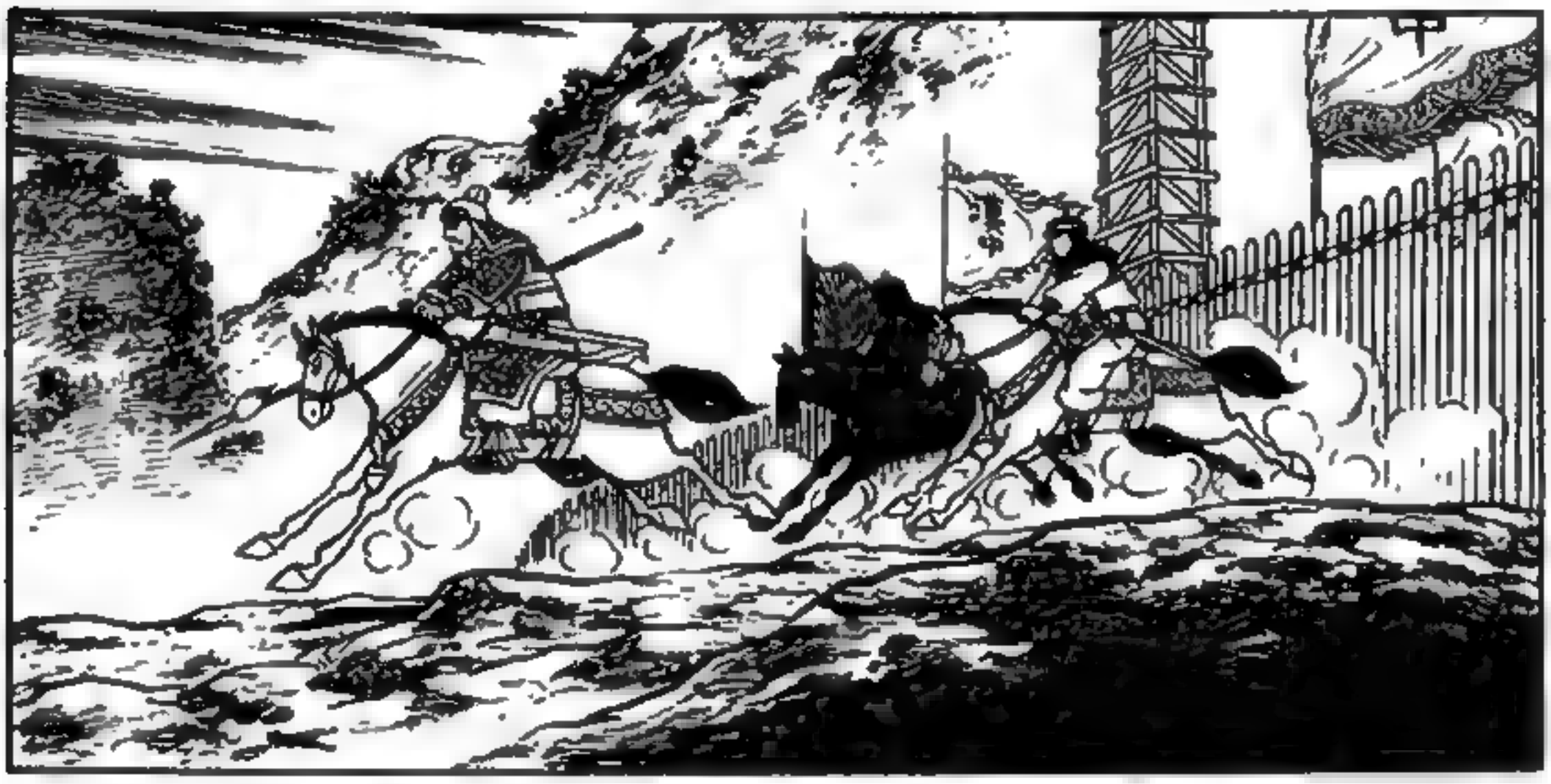




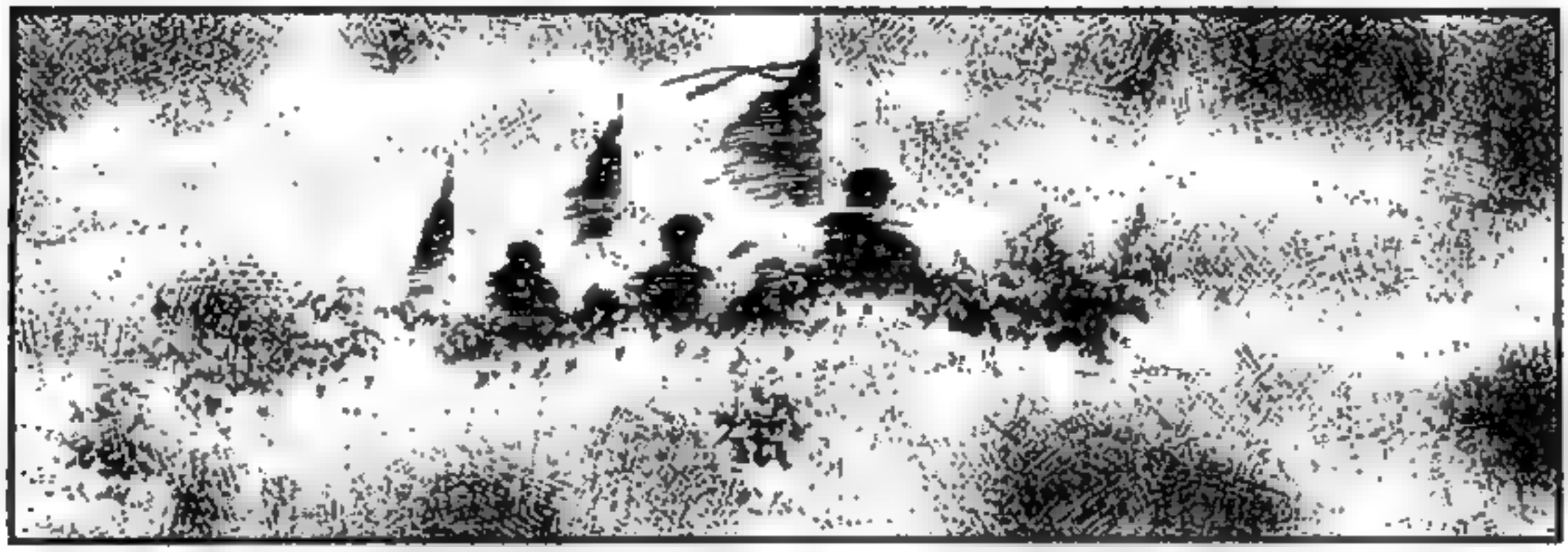


WE WILL CONTINUE TO GUARD OUR BASE.

I WILL NOT FALL FOR HIS BLUFF.
THERE'S NO WAY CAO CAO WOULD RETREAT SO EASILY...



A THICK FOG ROLLED IN



THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE...

BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOSE YOUR WAY.

HM?

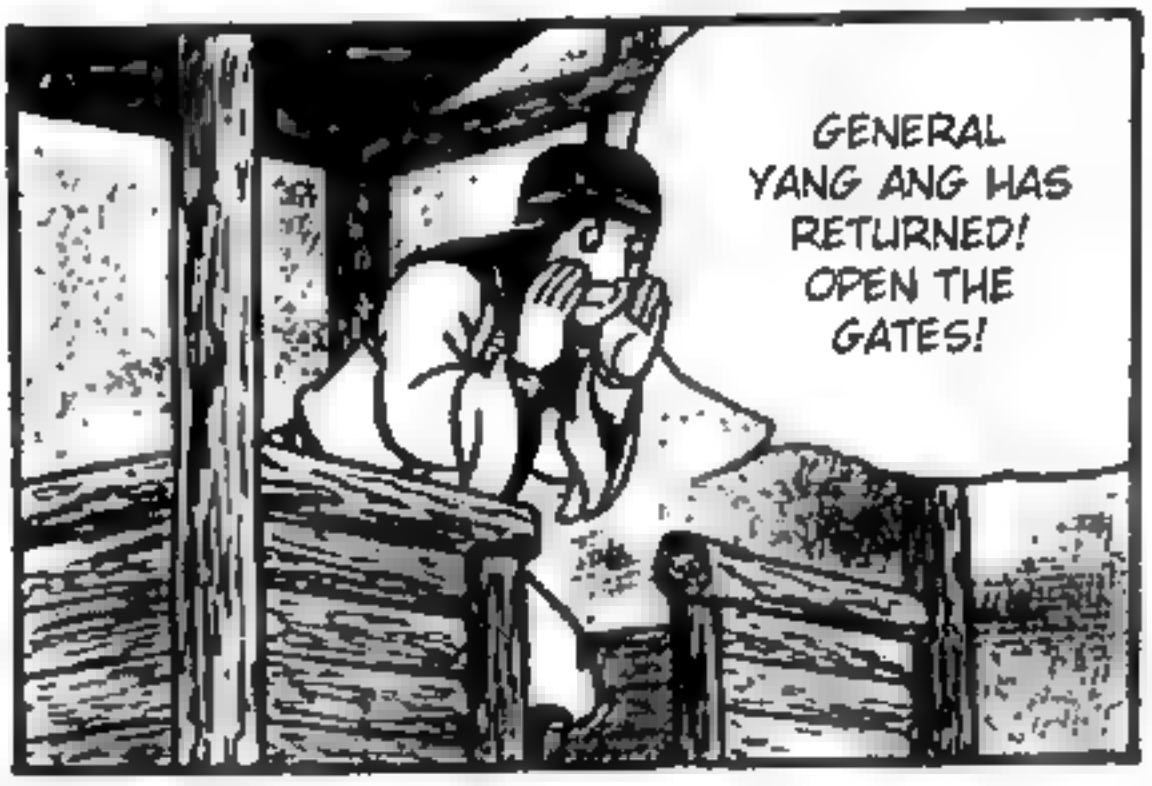
ALRIGHT, LET'S HEAD TOWARDS THEM!

SIR! I HEAR HORSES FROM THE FRONT!

IT'S THE ENEMY BASE!

AHH!

HM?


GENERAL YANG ANG HAS RETURNED! OPEN THE GATES!

ALRIGHT, LET'S CHARGE IN THEN.

THE THICK FOG MUST'VE CAUSED THEM TO MISTAKE US FOR THEIR FORCES.

SIR, THE ENEMIES ARE WILLINGLY OPENING THE GATES!

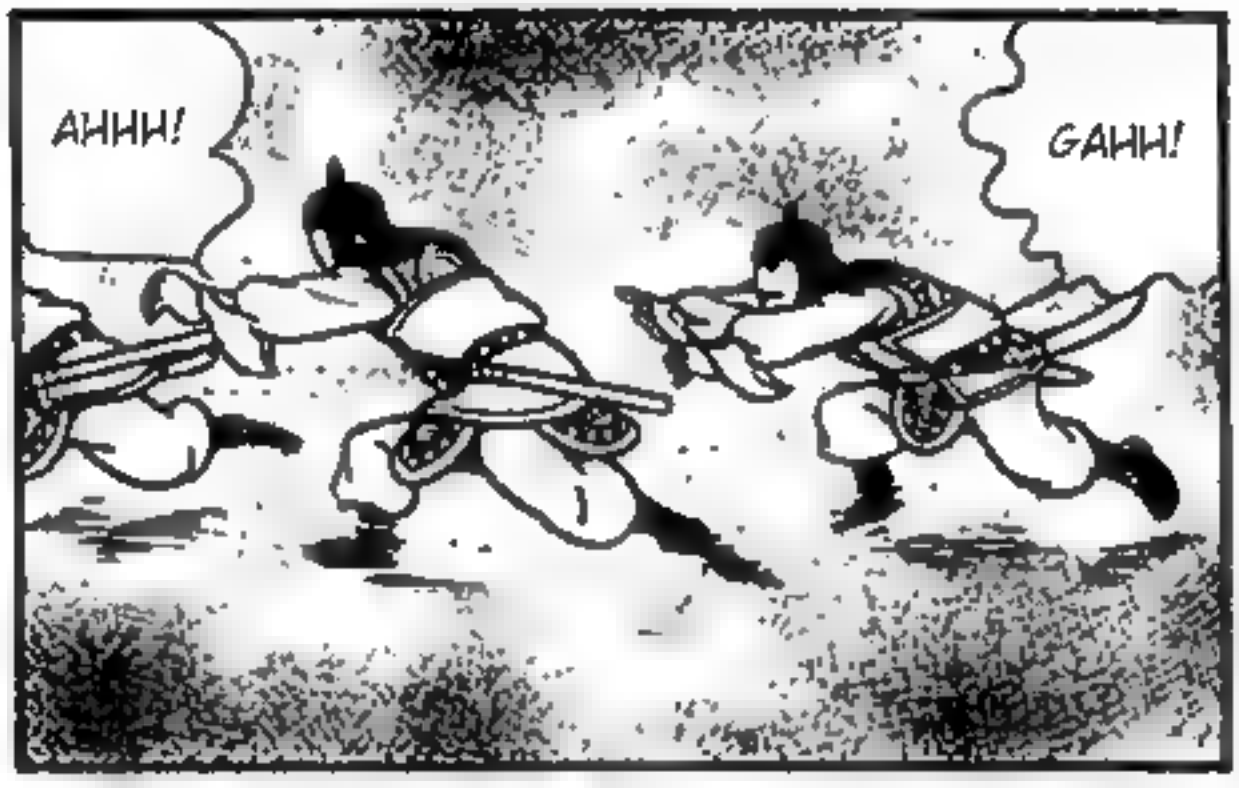
T-T-T-T-

HUH?

AGHH!

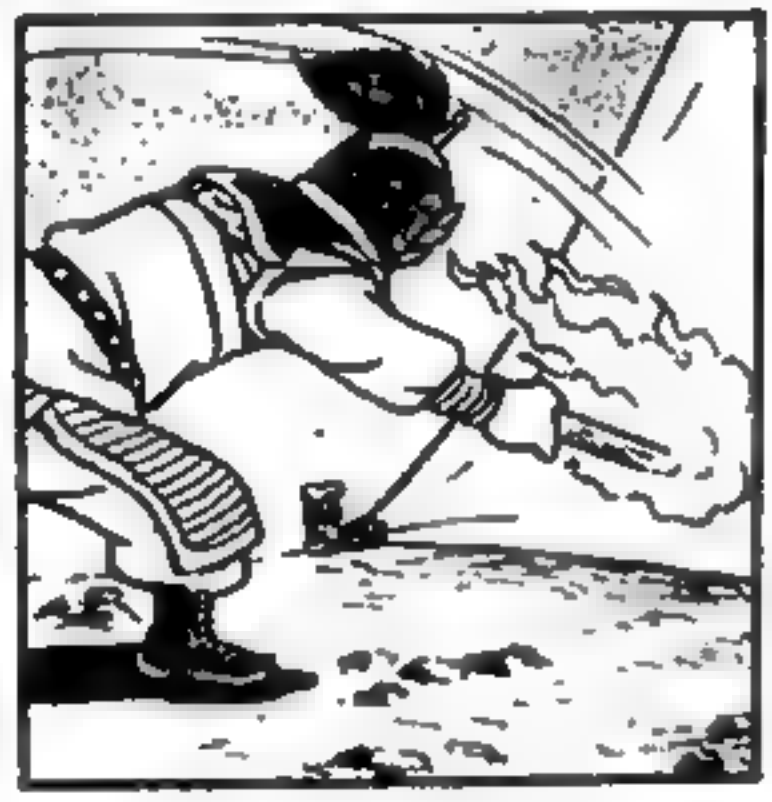
IT'S THE
WEI
FORCES!

HMM...


AHHH!
GAHH!

BURN DOWN THE CAMPS!

I HARDLY SEE ANY SOLDIERS HERE...



HM?

WHAT!?

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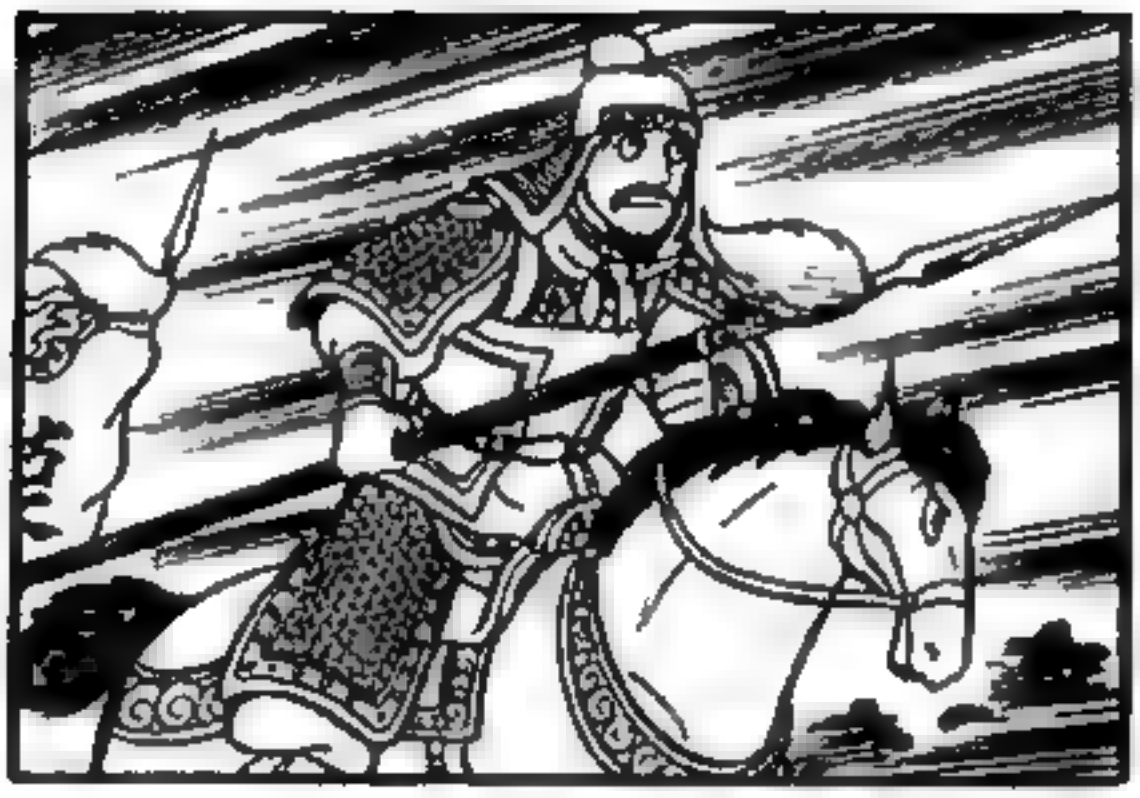
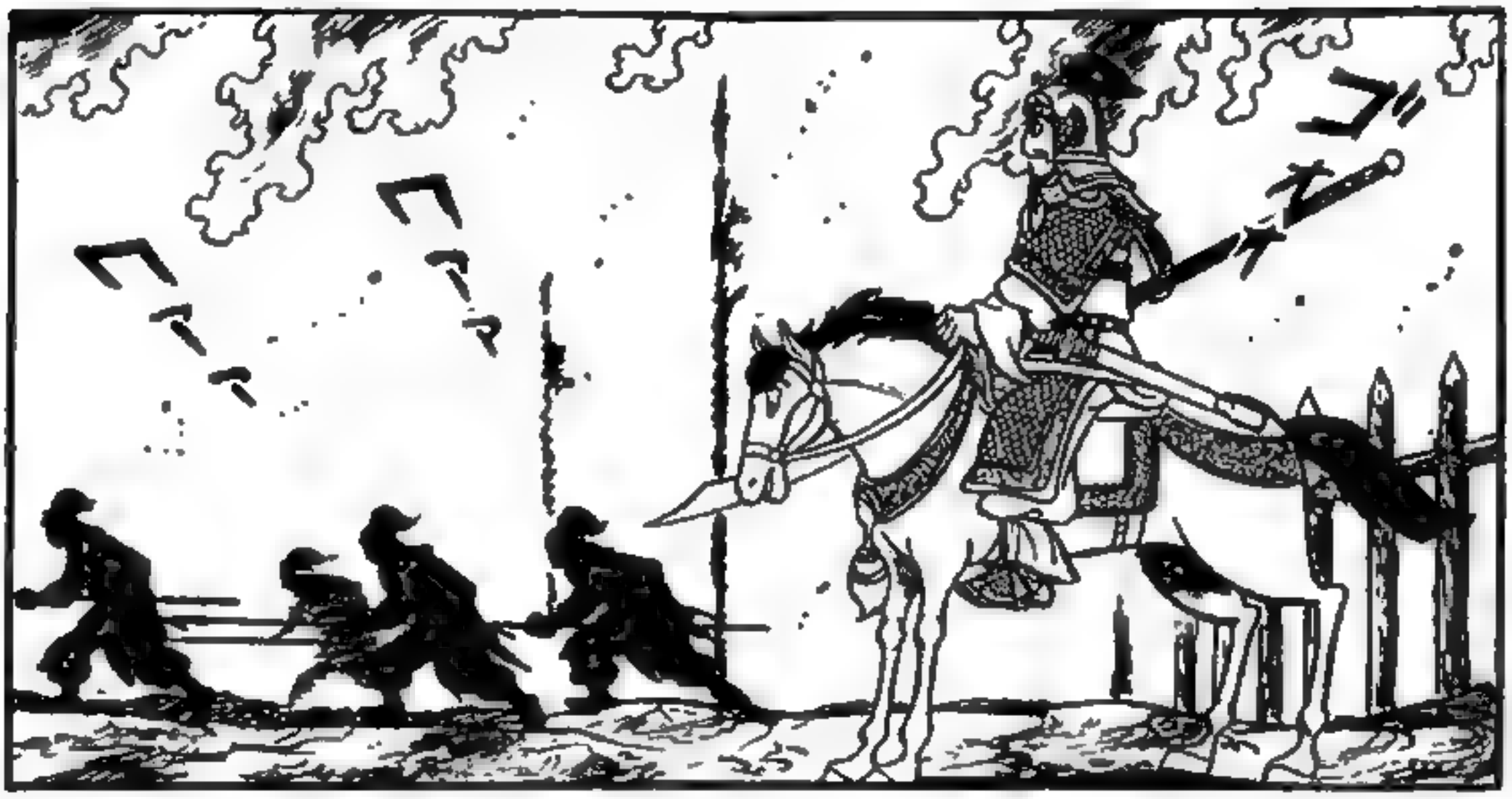
GENERAL YANG REN! YANG ANG'S CAMPS ARE ON FIRE!

AHH!



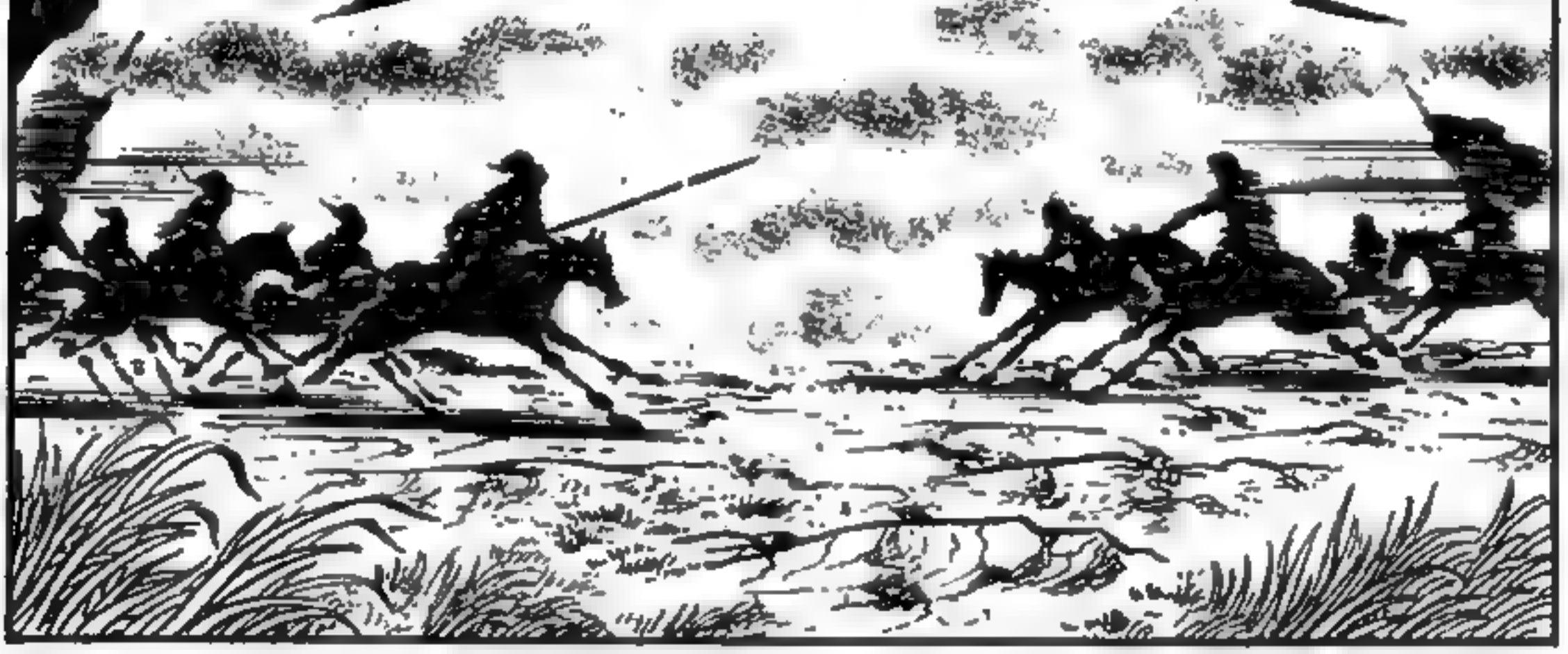
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! WE MUST GO AND HELP OUR COMRADES!

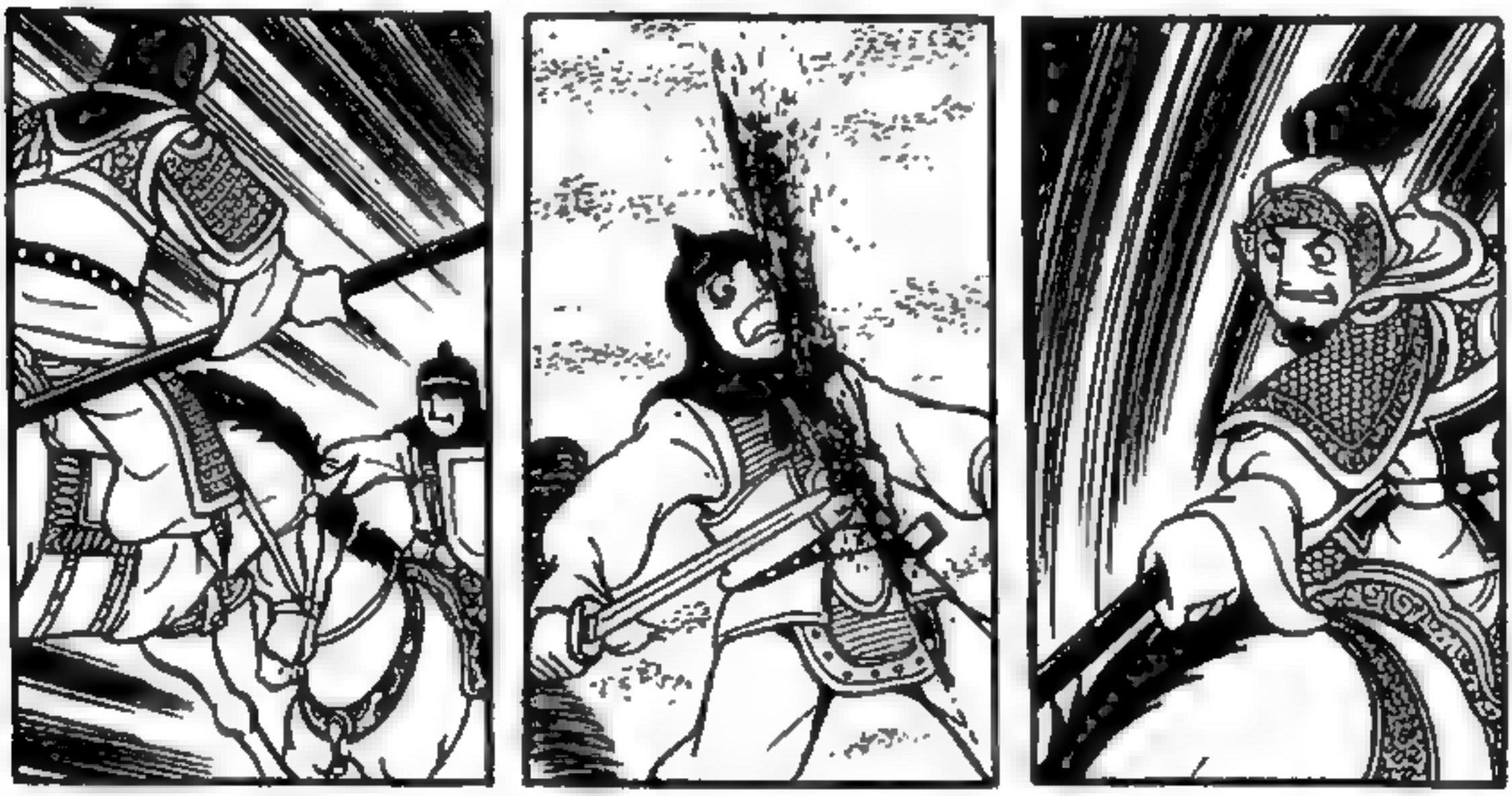


HM!?

SIR! MORE ENEMIES HAVE ARRIVED!

LET US LITTERLY CRUSH THEM!
GOOD. TIME TO WASH AWAY MY DISGRACE.





ZHANG HE'S FORCES, WHICH HAD BEEN ADVANCING ALONG ANOTHER PATH, REUNITED WITH XIAHOU YUAN'S FORCES JUST THEN

AHH, SO THEY'VE FOUND THE ENEMIES, DID THEY?

SIR! GENERAL XIAHOU YUAN AND HIS MEN APPEAR TO BE ENGAGING THE ENEMIES!

LET US PAY THEM BACK IN DOUBLE!

ALRIGHT, MEN!

SIR! MORE ENEMIES HAVE ARRIVED! WE'VE BEEN OUT-FLANKED!

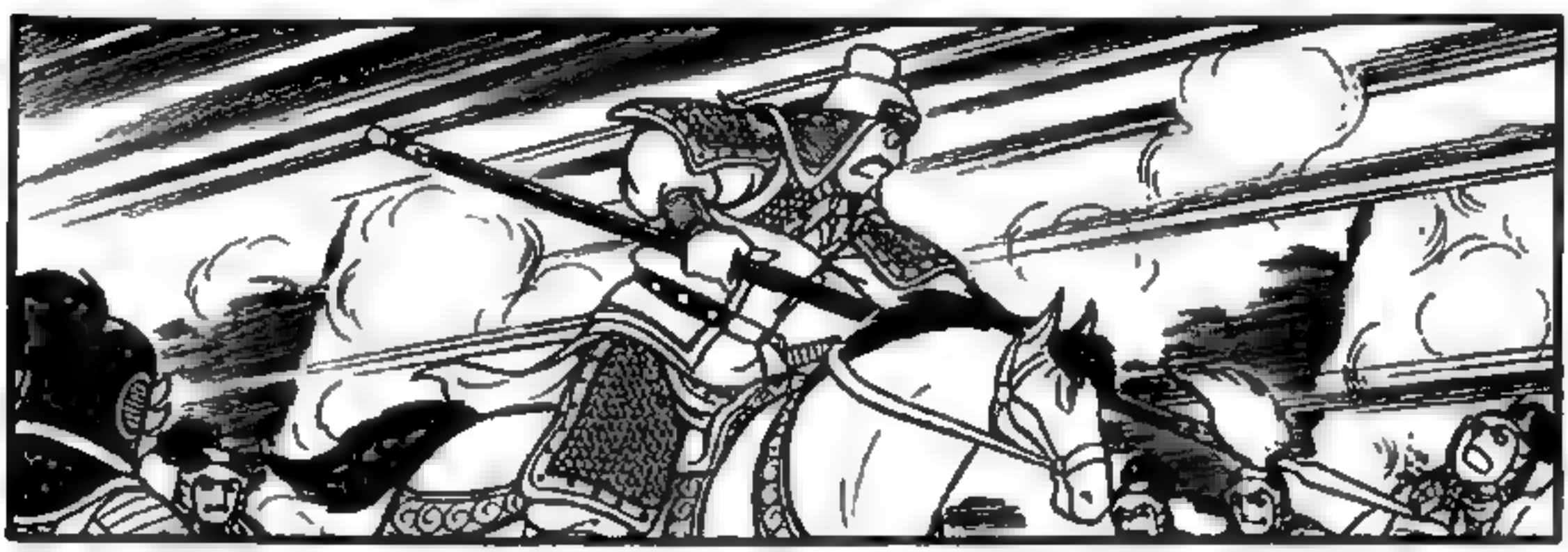
AH!

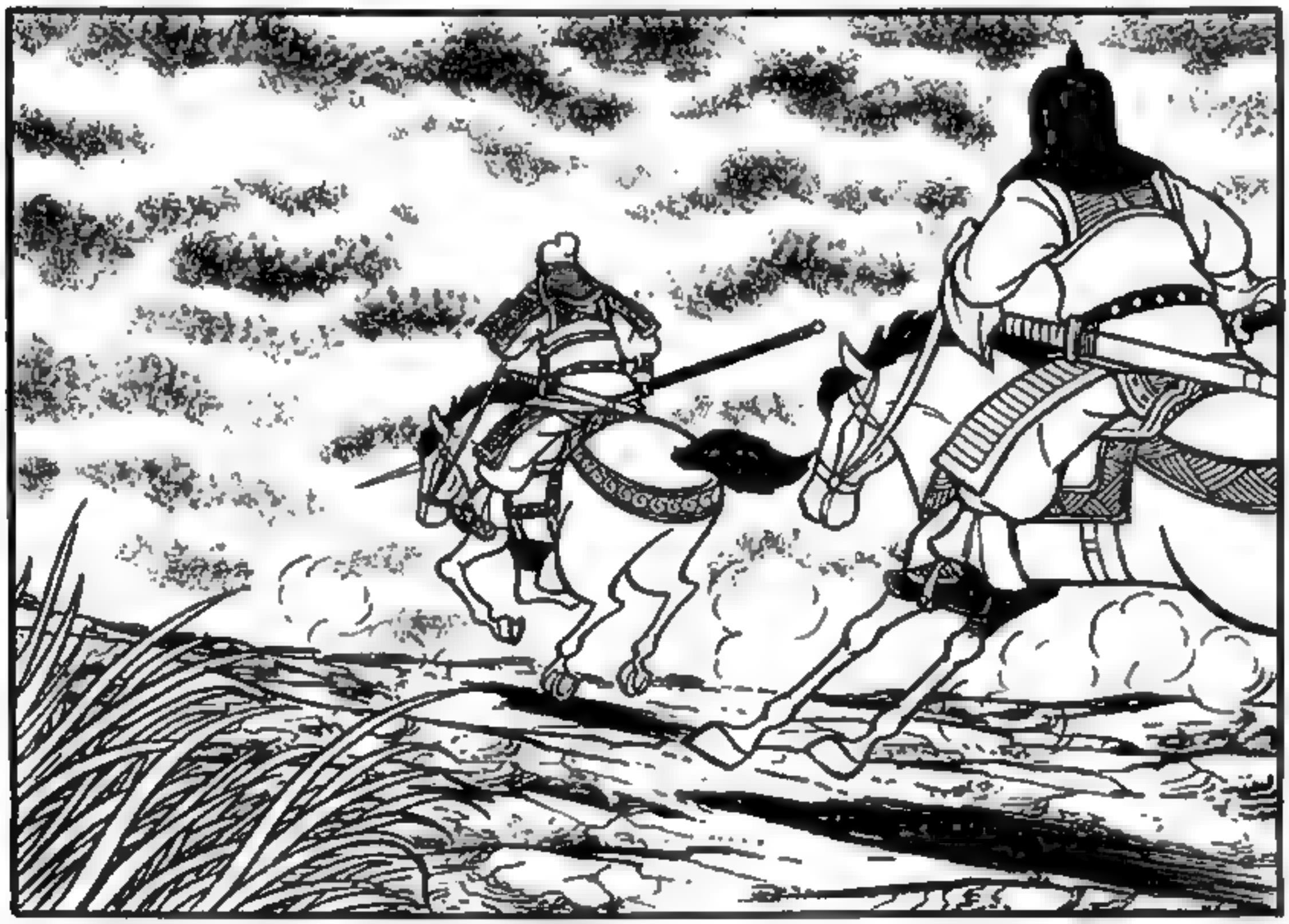
WE'LL BE ANNHILATED AT THIS RATE! DO YOUR BEST TO PENETRATE THROUGH ONE OF THEIR LINES AND ESCAPE!

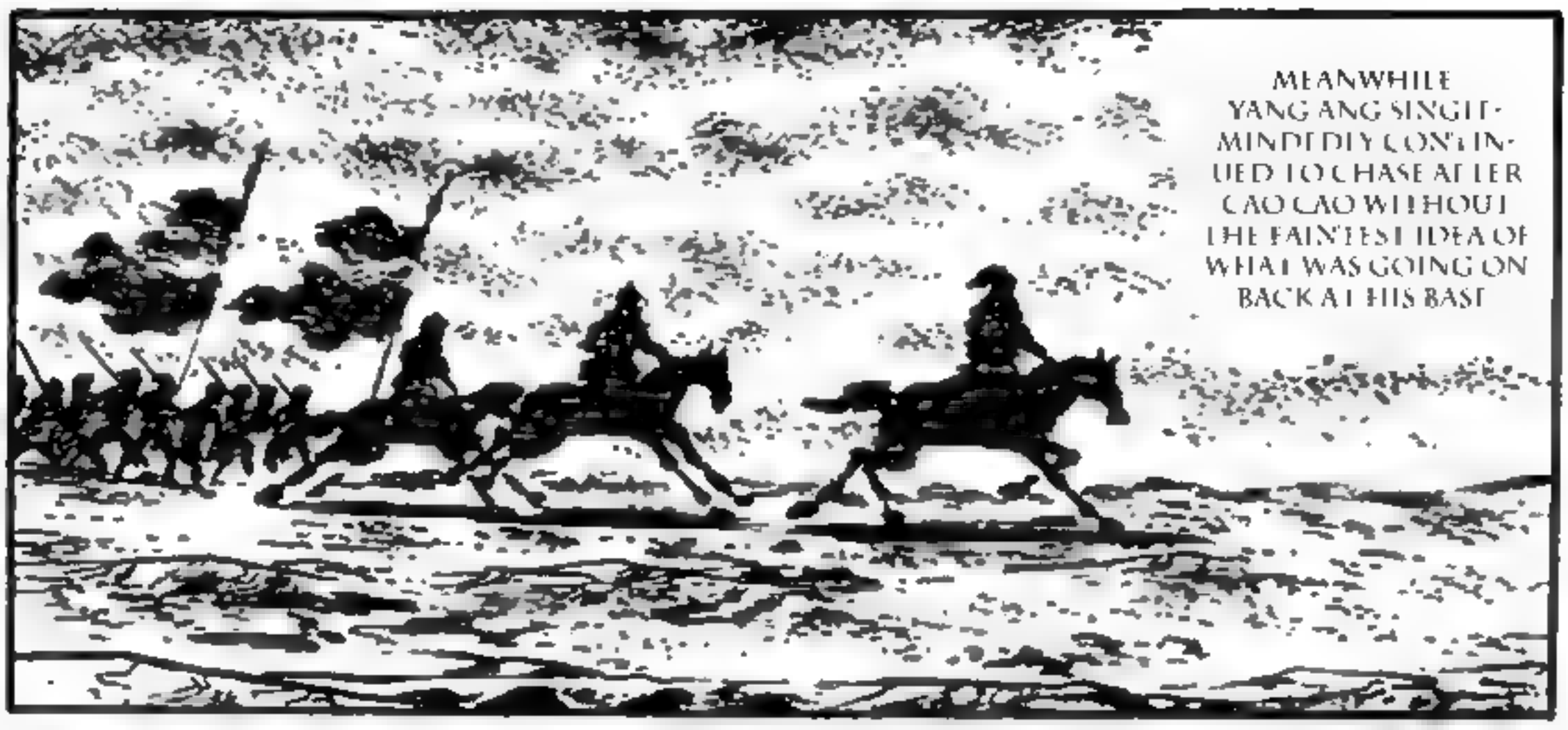
I KNEW IT! CAO CAO WAS ONLY FEIGNING RETREAT...!

SLINK

SWISH!






MEANWHILE YANG ANG SINGLE-MINDEDLY CONTINUED TO CHASE AFTER CAO CAO WITHOUT THE FAINTEST IDEA OF WHAT WAS GOING ON BACK AT HIS BASE

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BUT IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR HIM TO REALIZE WHAT WAS TRULY GOING ON

HM!?

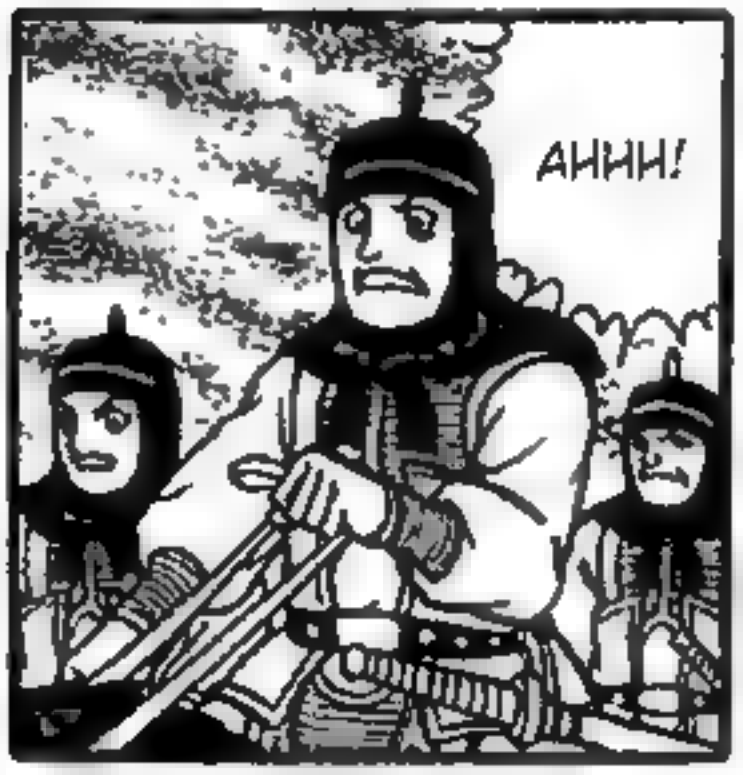
DON'T LET A SINGLE ENEMY SOLDIER ESCAPE!

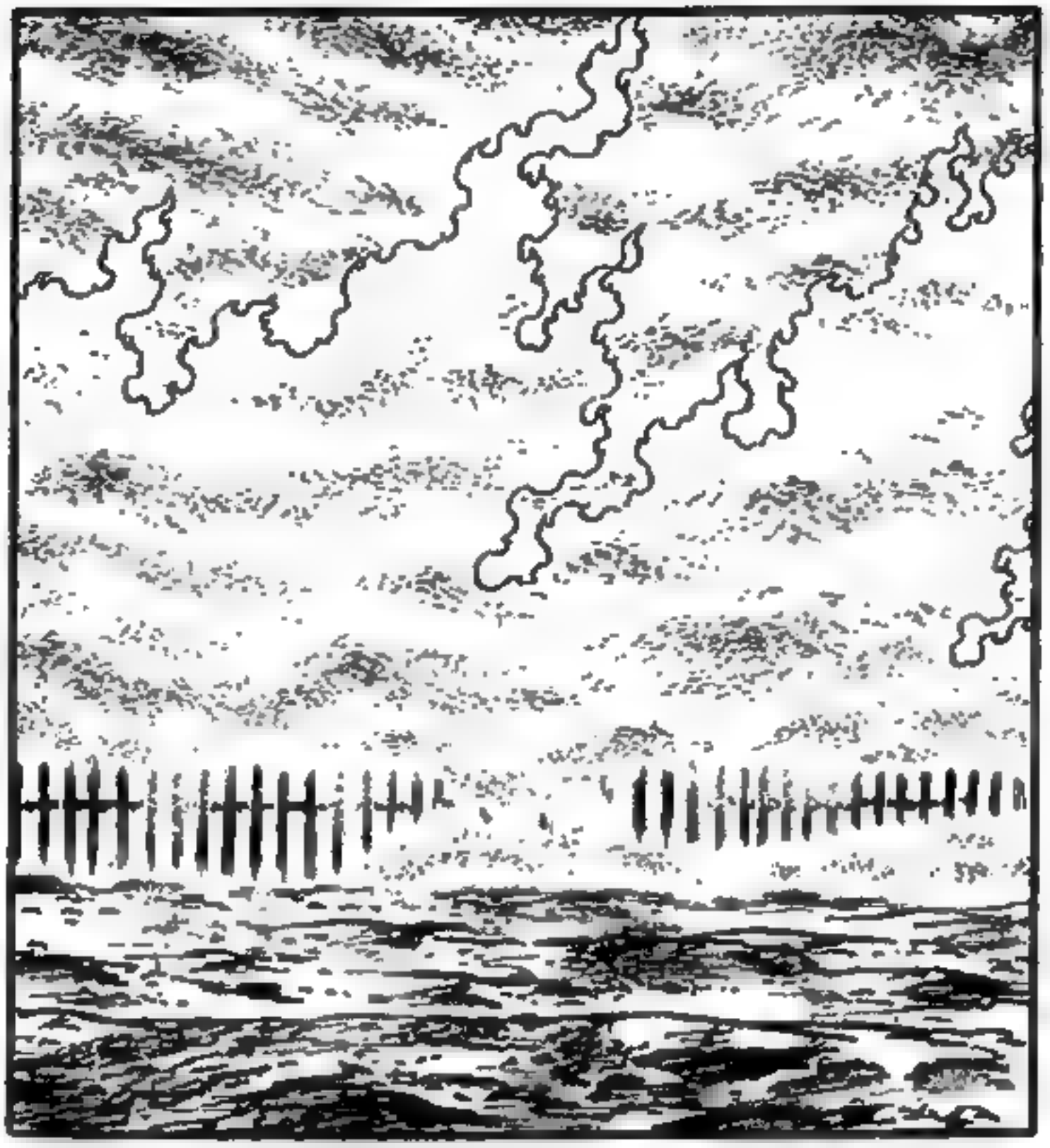
AHH, SO YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED.

RETREAT BACK TO BASE!

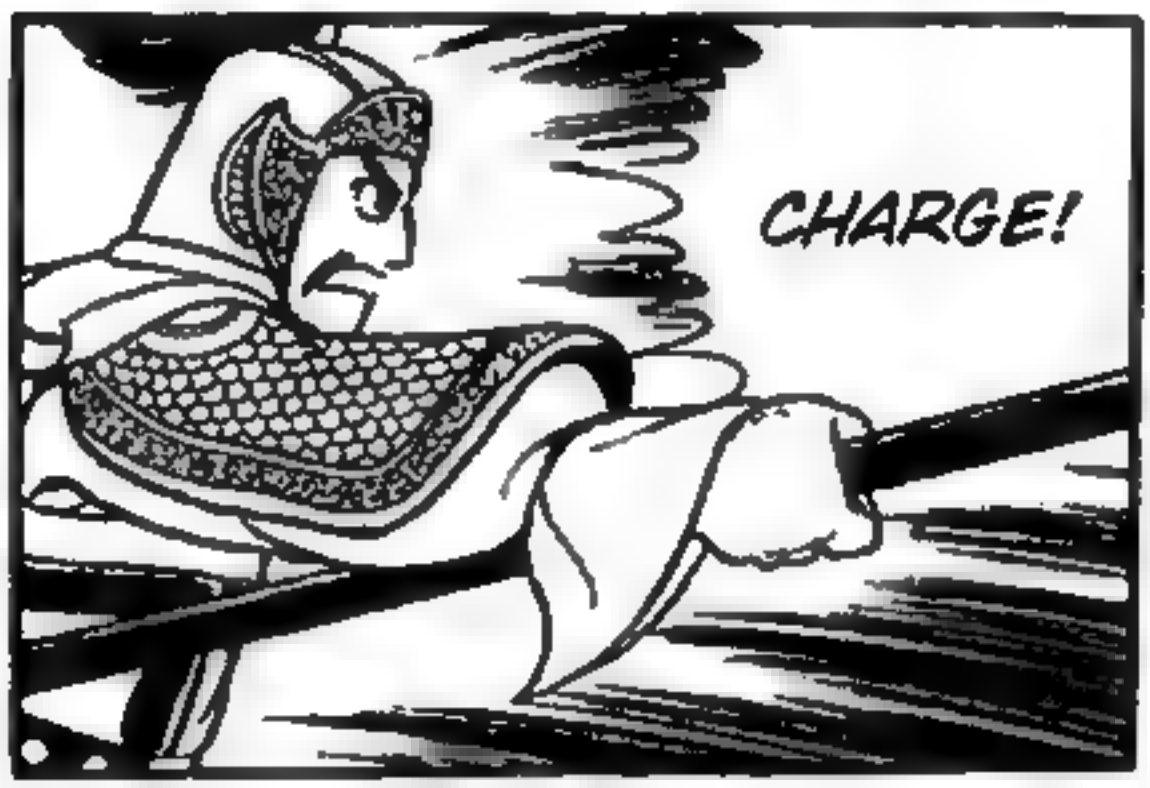
I'VE BEEN HAD! THE RETREAT WAS A TRAP!

WHA!


AHHH!

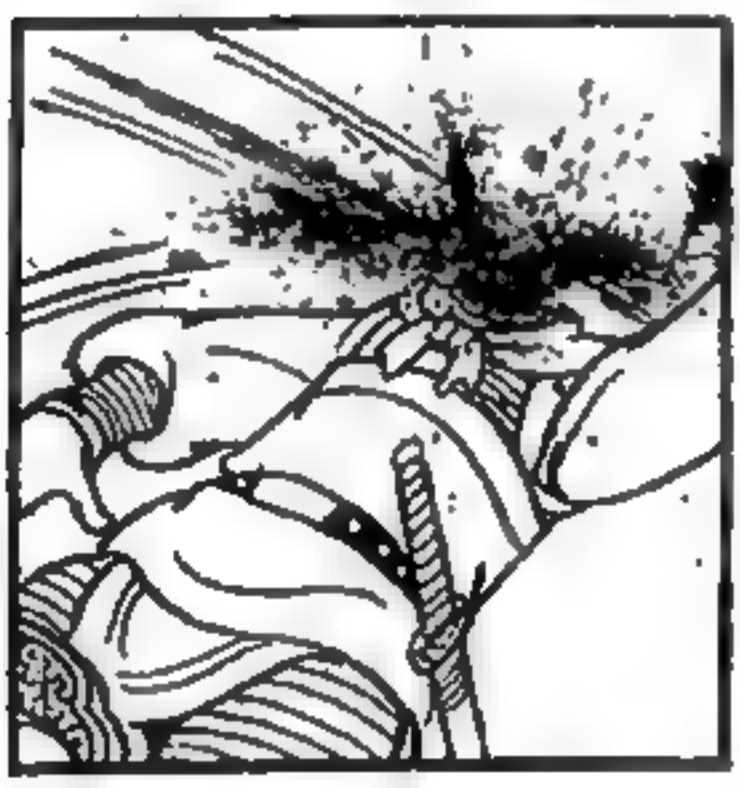


H-HOW CAN THIS BE...

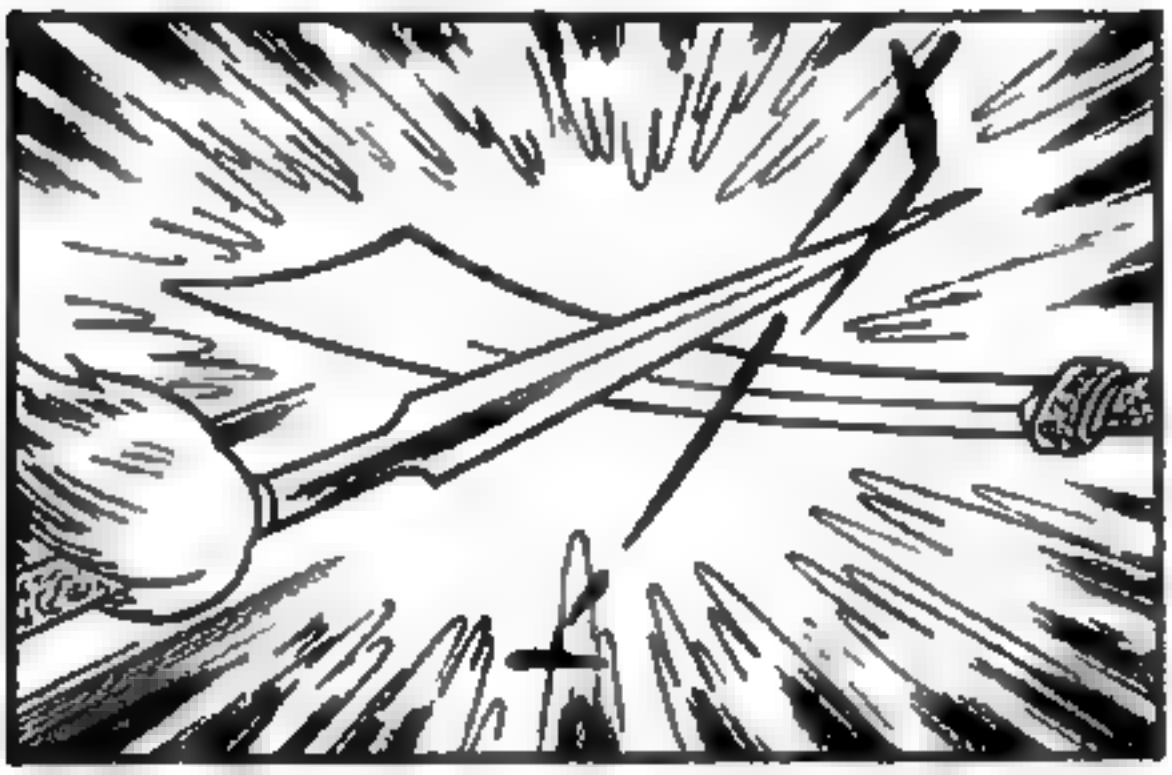

CHARGE!

OH? I THOUGHT WE HAD FINISHED OFF ALL THE ENEMIES...

NGH!



MOVE OUT OF MY WAY! THE ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD IS MINE!

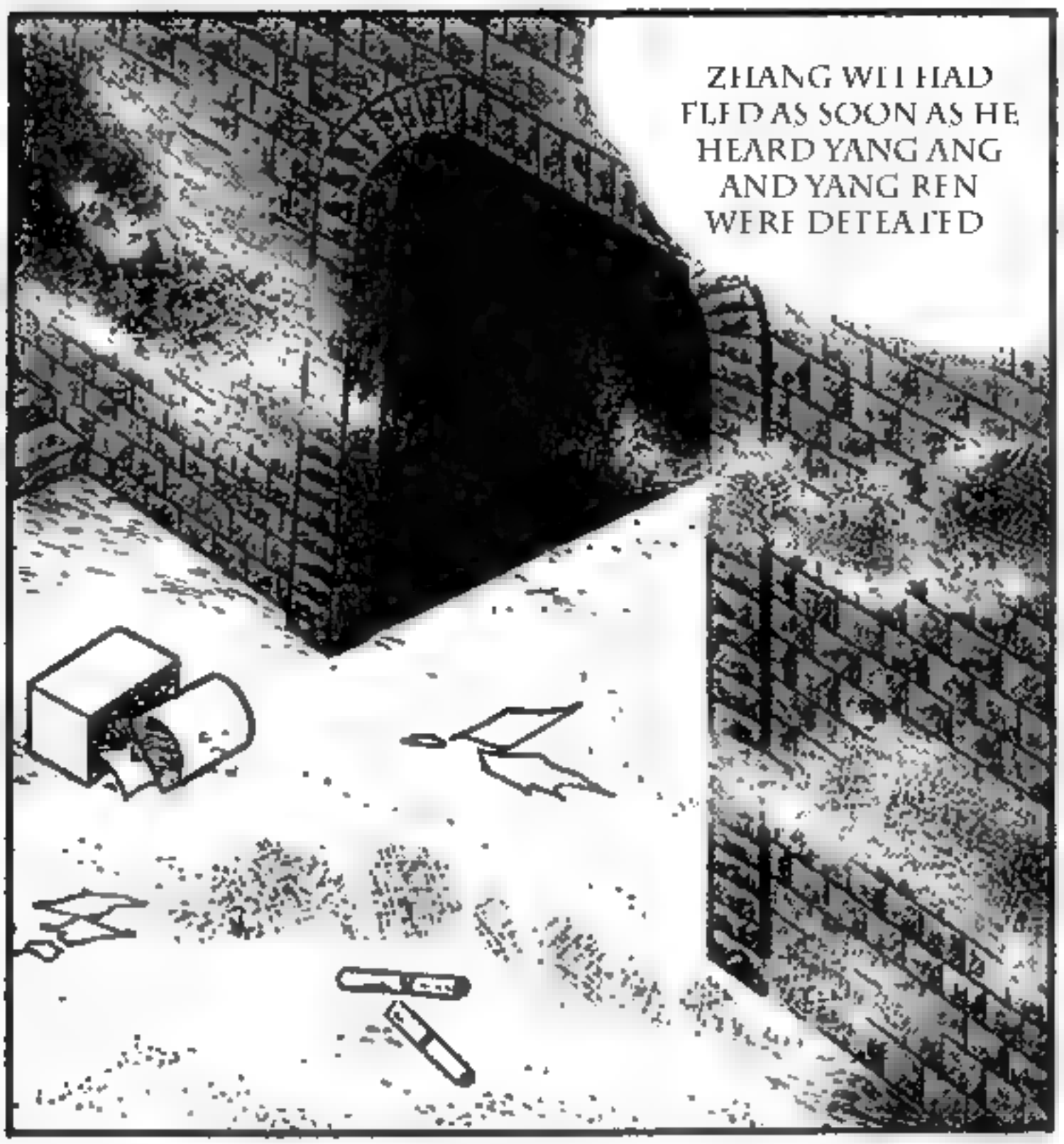


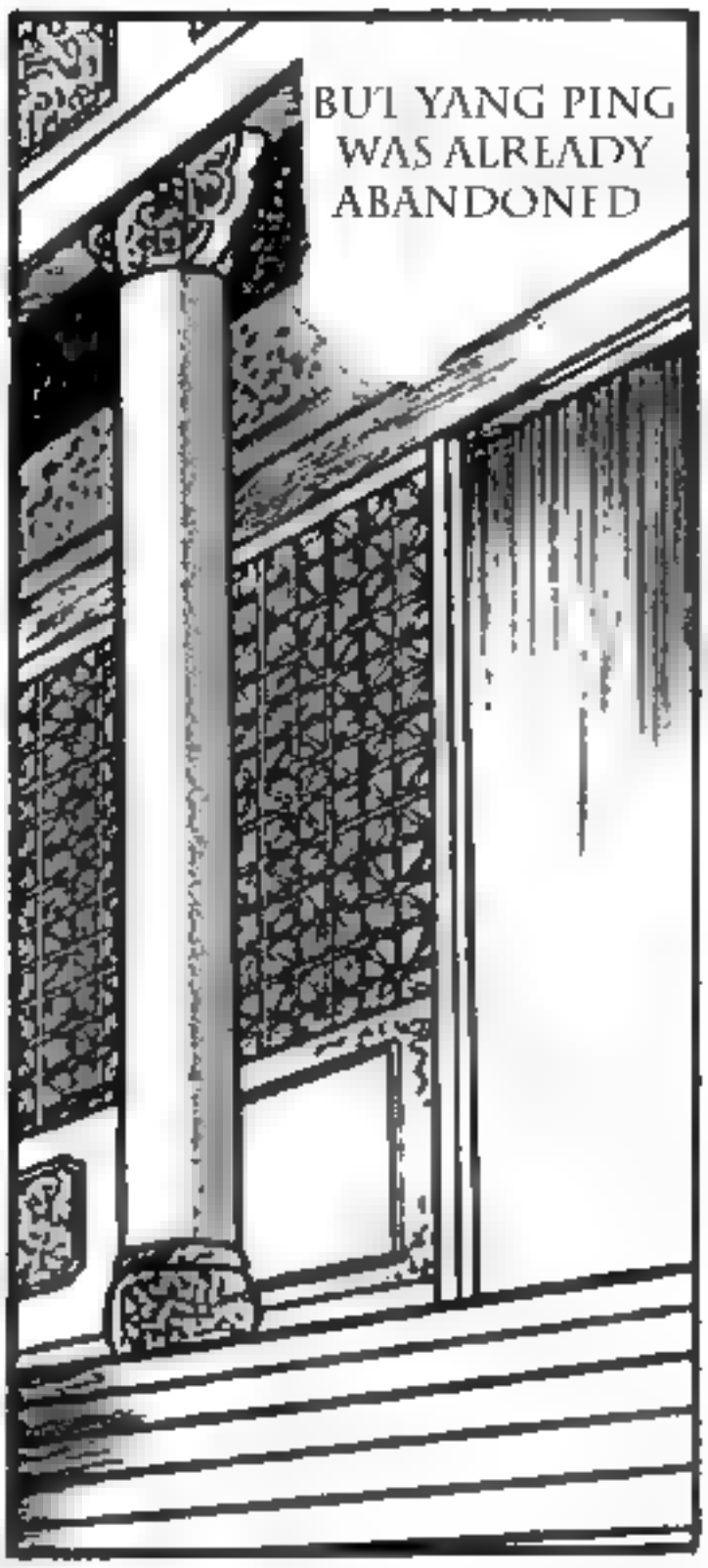
GAHH!

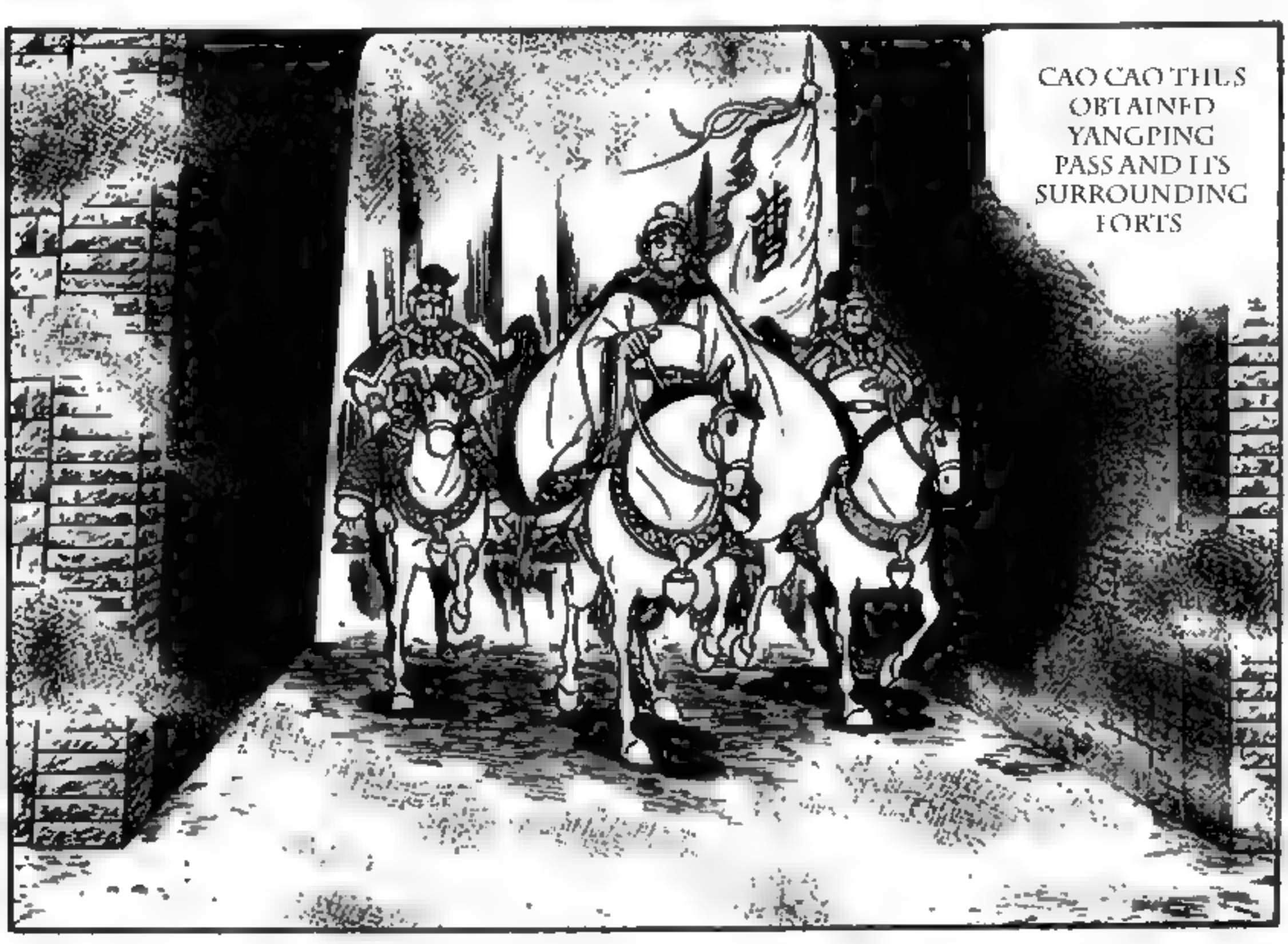
IT'S ALL OVER!

GENERAL YANG ANG!

THE SURVIVING SOLDIERS FLED INSIDE YANGPING PASS


ZHANG WEI HAD FLED AS SOON AS HE HEARD YANG ANG AND YANG REN WERE DETEATED


BUT YANG PING WAS ALREADY ABANDONED


CAO CAO THUS OBTAINED YANGPING PASS AND IT'S SURROUNDING FORTS

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YES, YANGPING PASS'S SECURITY WAS ENTIRELY COMPROMISED BY THE LOSS OF THE FORTS.

WHAT!? YOU ABANDONED YANGPING PASS BECAUSE THE SUPPORTING FORTS HAD BEEN LOST!?

YANG REN! COME FORTH!

YOU INCOMPETENTS! HOW COULD YOU SO EASILY LOSE HANZHONG'S TOUGHEST PASS!?

YOU DARE FLEE IN THE THICK OF BATTLE WHEN HANZHONG'S VERY FATE IS ON THE LINE!?

HAD YANG ANG NOT LET HIS GUARD DOWN AND CONTINUE TO DEFEND HIS FORT, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, SIR. THE LOSS WAS ENTIRELY DUE TO YANG ANG FOR FALLING INTO CAO CAO'S TRAP.

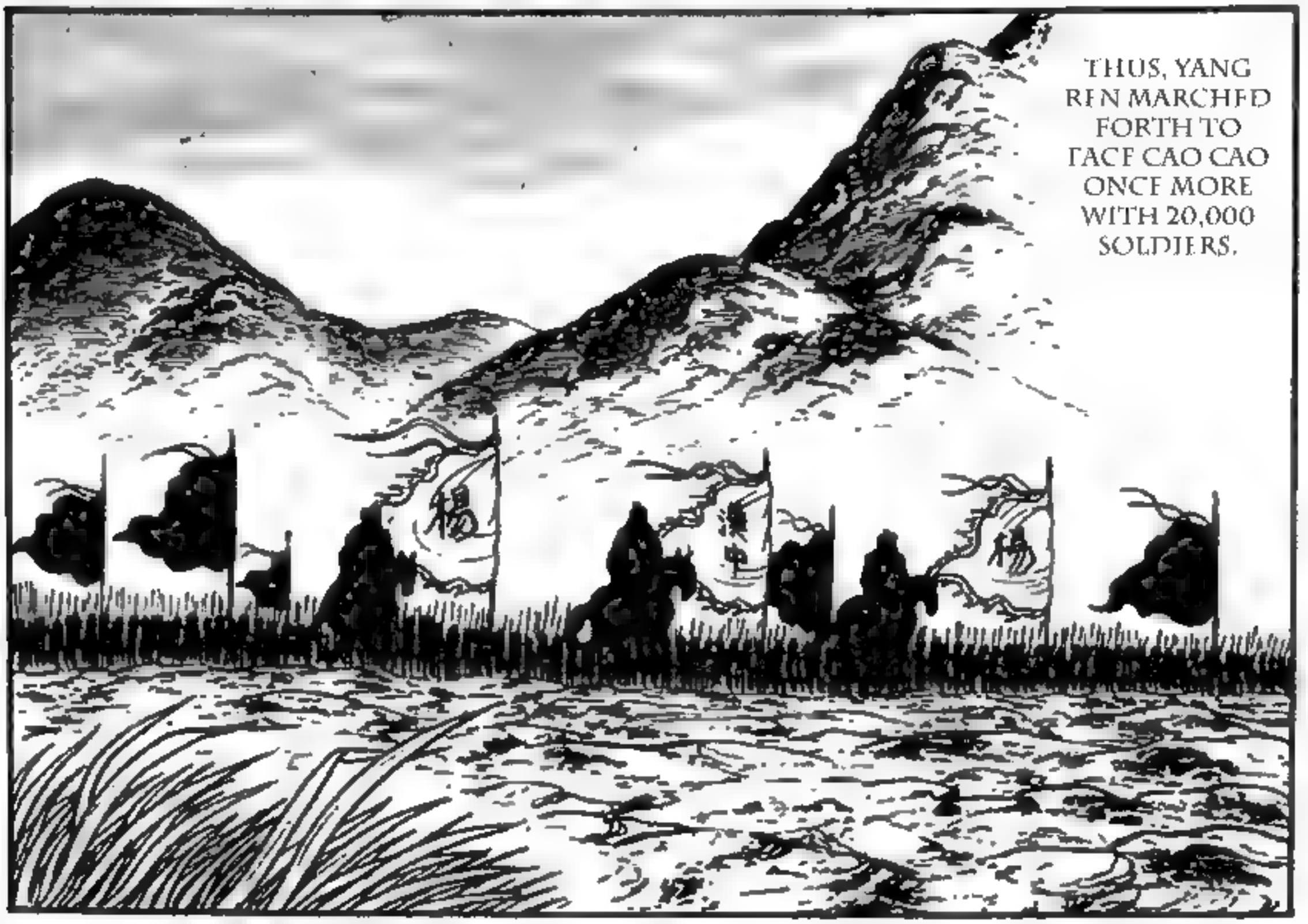
I BEG OF YOU TO PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.

AND WHAT IF YOU HAPPEN TO FLEE FROM BATTLE AGAIN!?

HMM...

...FINE. I WILL GIVE YOU 20,000 SOLDIERS TO REDEEM YOURSELF.

I WILL FACE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.


THUS, YANG REN MARCHED FORTH TO FACE CAO CAO ONCE MORE WITH 20,000 SOLDIERS.
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BUT A HIGH-SPIRITED WEI ARMY WAS NO EASY FOE.
XIAHOU YUAN'S FORCES MET YANG REN'S FORCES HEAD-ON
XIAHOU YUAN AND HIS TROOPS FOUGHT TREMENDOUSLY FIERCELY TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR PREVIOUS FAILURE

COME OUT AND FIGHT XIAHOU YUAN IF YOU DARE!

WHERE IS YOUR GENERAL, YANG REN!

I AM YANG REN!

I WILL CLEANSE MY DISGRACE!

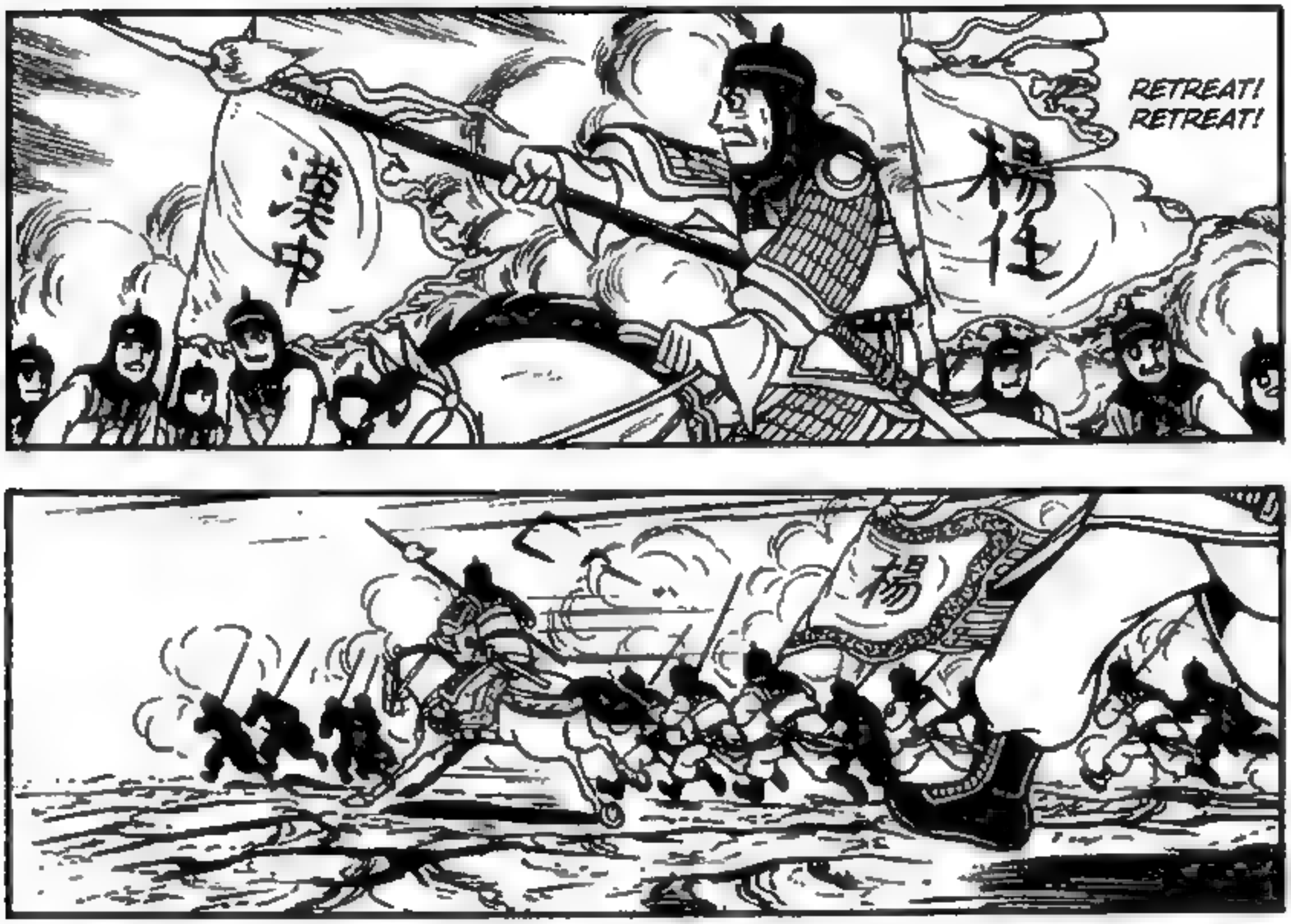
BECAUSE OF YOU, I ALMOST SUFFERED AN IGNOMINIOUS EXECUTION!

AH!

DIE!

YANG REN!

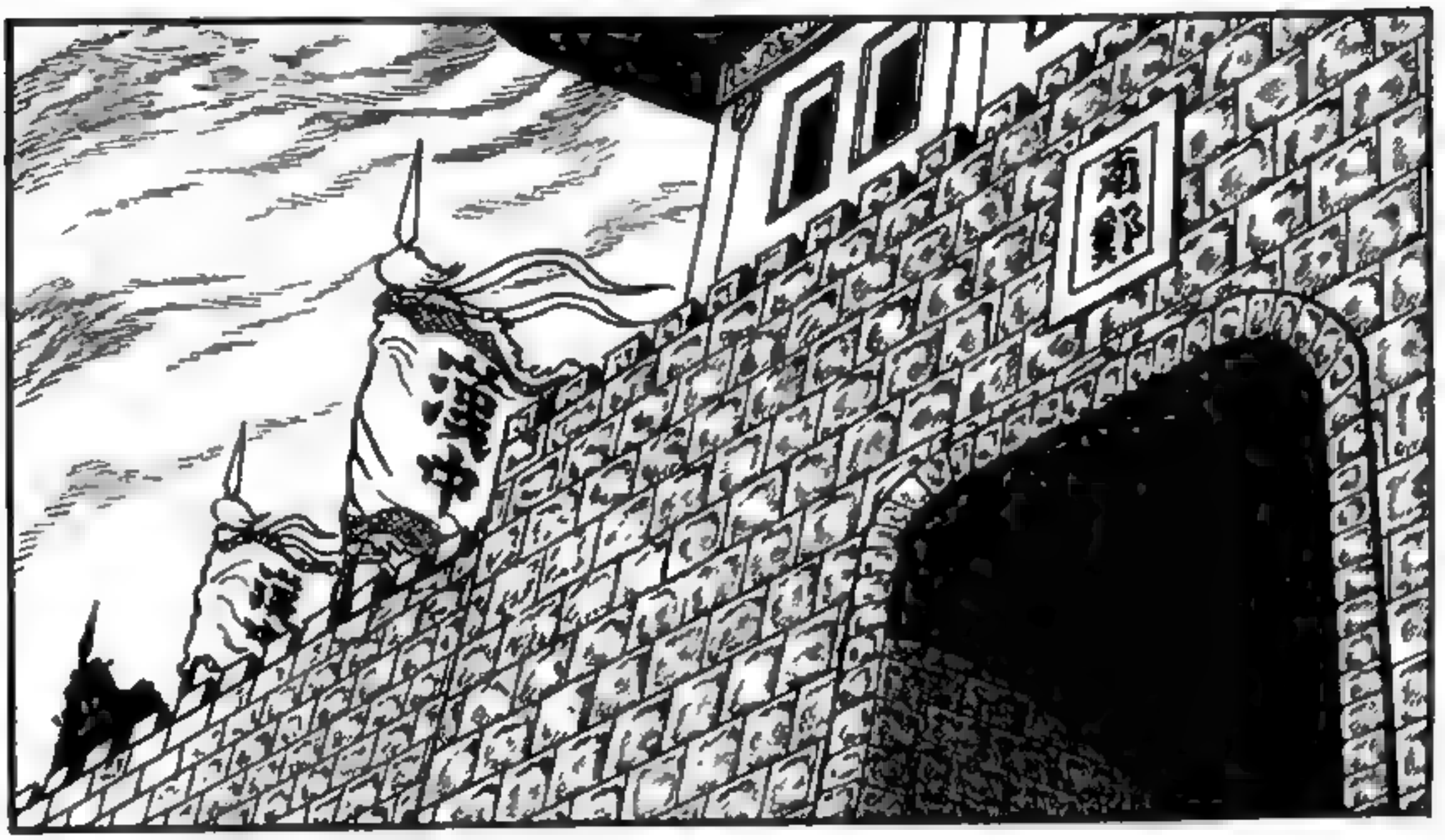
AH!


RETREAT!
RETREAT!

XIAHOU YUAN AND ZHANG HE. YOU'VE DONE WELL IN EACH BRINGING ME AN ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD. NOW, THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE CAPABLE GENERALS IN HANZHONG.

HANZHONG IS ALREADY WITHIN MY GRASP.

PANG DE OF XILIANG



IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN PULL US THROUGH THIS CRISIS!?

OUR BACKS ARE NOW PRESSED AGAINST THE WALL...

ONE OF MA CHAO'S RETAINERS?

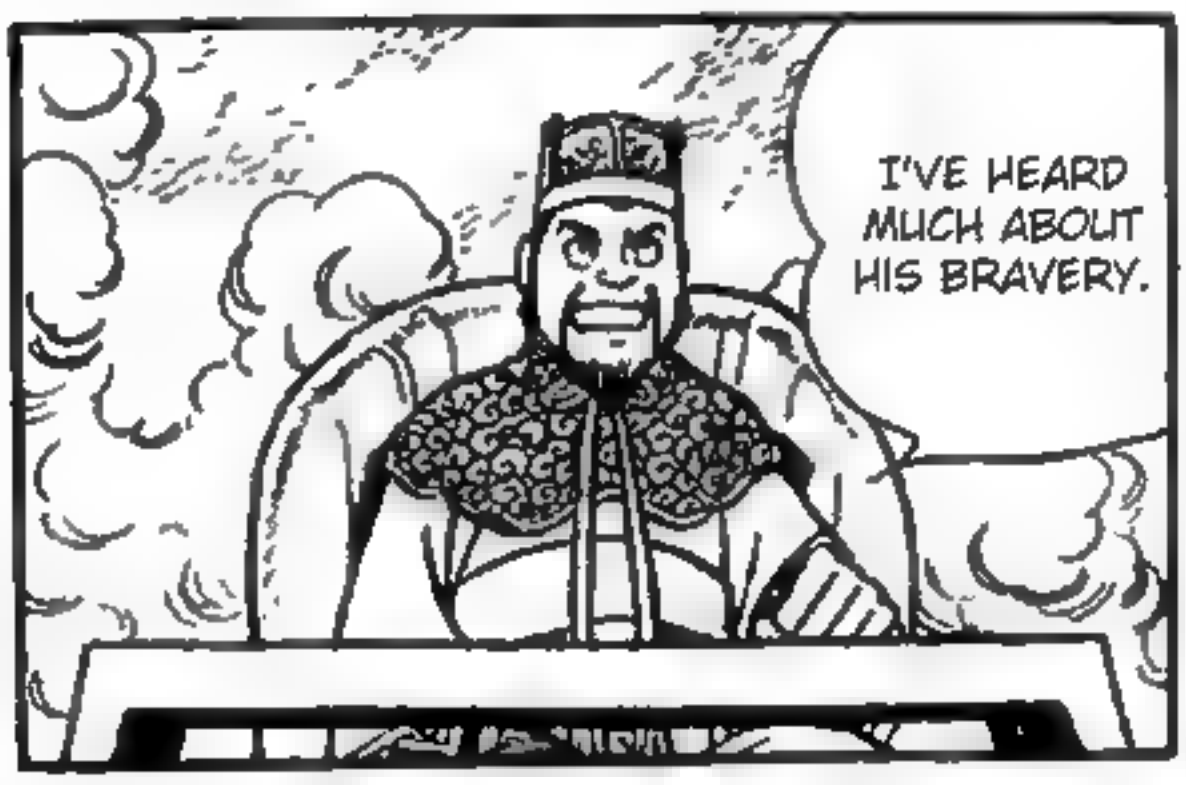
PANG DE, THE MAN WHO SOUGHT REFUGE HERE WITH MA CHAO.

THERE IS ONE MAN.

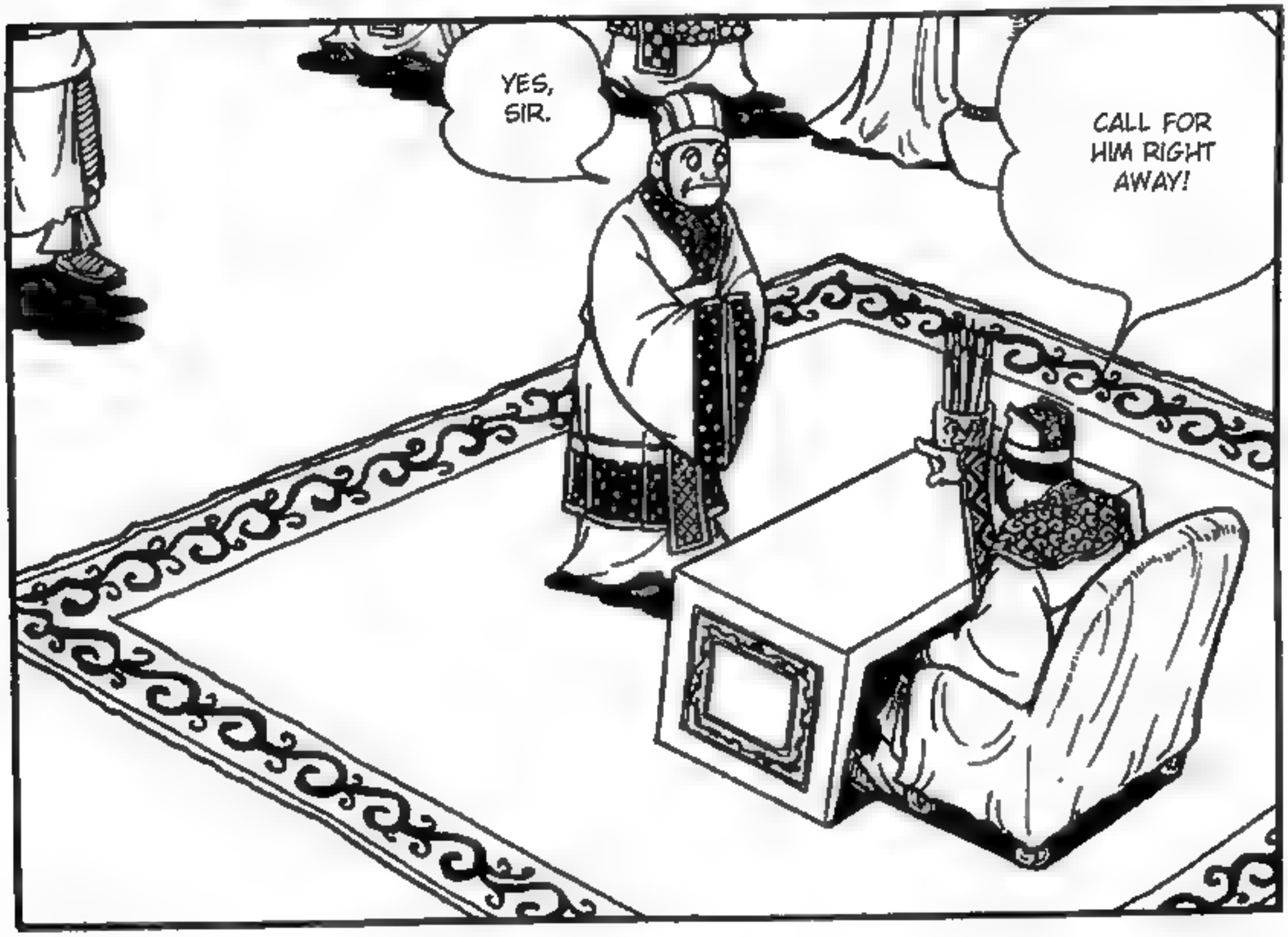
WHO!?

WHEN YOU SENT MA CHAO TO SHU, PANG DE WAS ILL AT THE TIME AND COULD NOT GO ALONG.

AND WHY IS HE STILL HERE?


I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT HIS BRAVERY.

I SEE, SO HE IS STILL HERE IN HANZHONG?

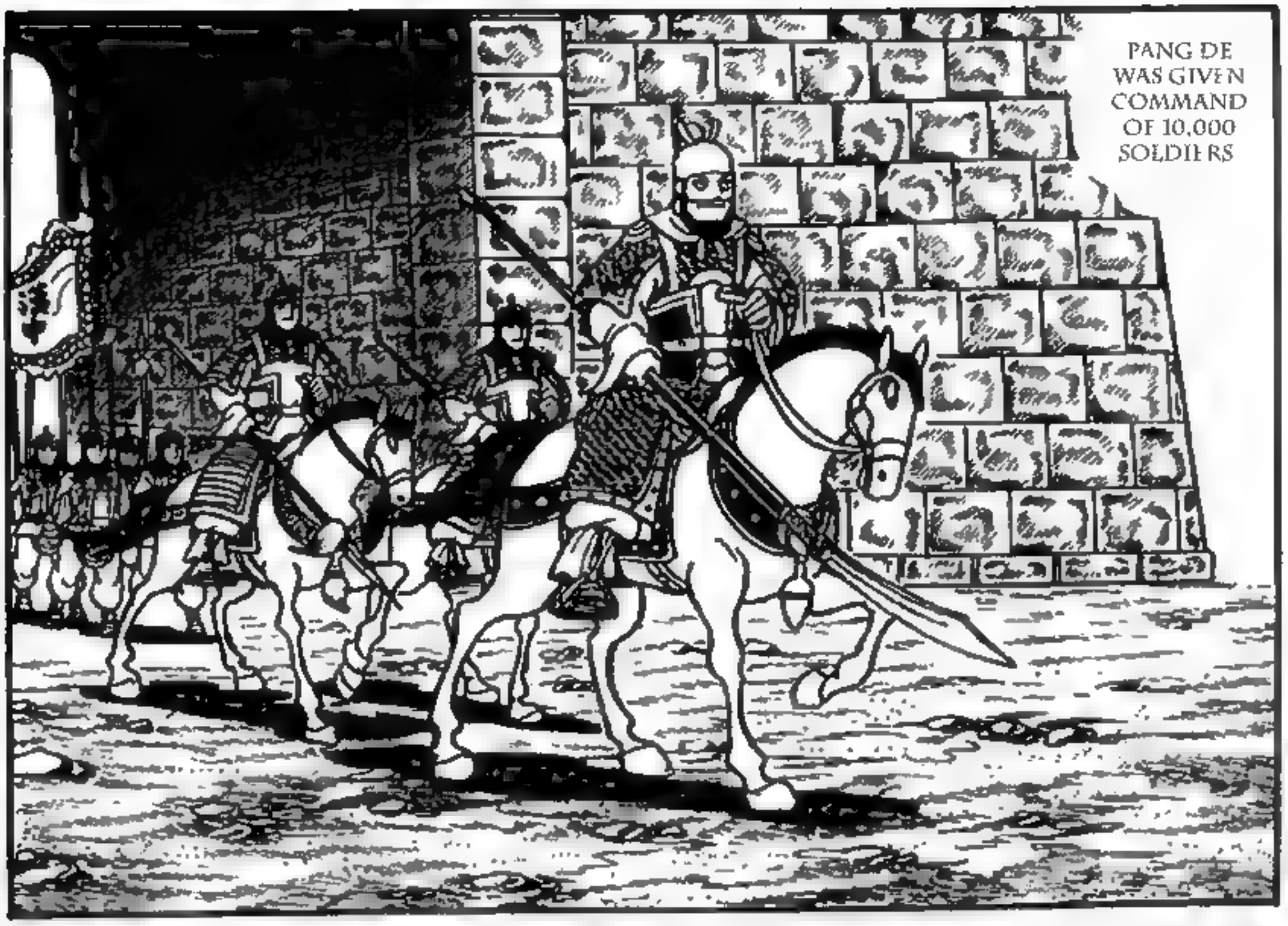

YES, SIR.
CALL FOR HIM RIGHT AWAY!

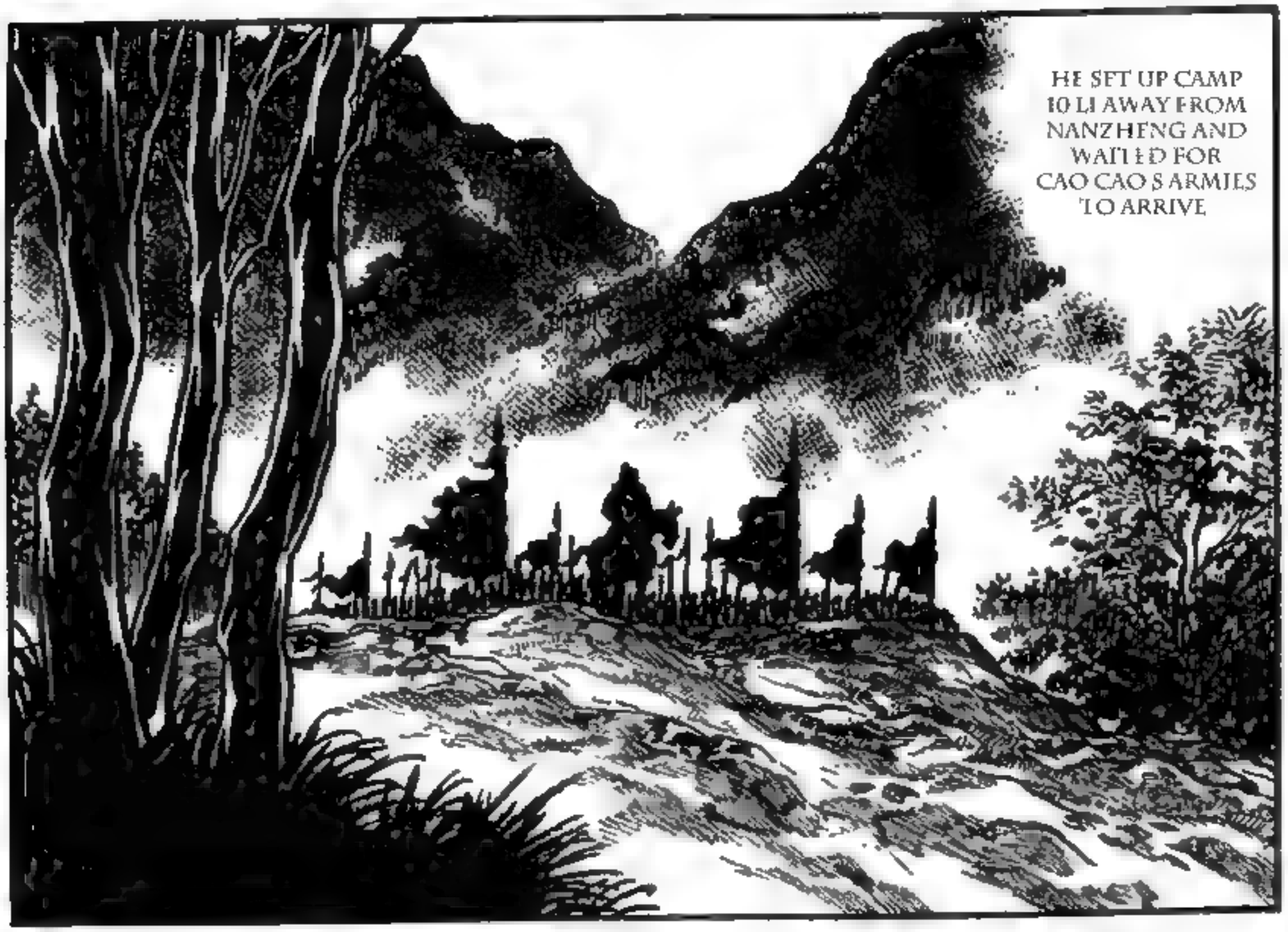
I OBLIGE GLADLY, SIR. IT WOULD BE IMMORAL FOR ME TO JUST STAND BY AND WATCH AFTER ALL HANZHONG HAS DONE FOR ME.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, PANG DE. I'M AFRAID I MUST RELY UPON YOUR ASSISTANCE TO SAVE HANZHONG.

OF COURSE.

SO YOU AGREE TO FIGHT FOR ME?


PANG DE
WAS GIVEN
COMMAND
OF 10,000
SOLDIERS


HE SET UP CAMP
10 LI AWAY FROM
NANZHENG AND
WAITED FOR
CAO CAO'S ARMIES
TO ARRIVE

YES, THE GREAT WARRIOR OF XILIANG AND RIGHT HAND OF MA CHAO.
PANG DE IS THE ENEMY GENERAL THIS TIME?

IF ONLY I COULD WIN HIM OVER TO MY SIDE...

YES, I KNOW HIS PROWESS FIRSTHAND FROM OUR BATTLES ALONG THE WEI RIVER.

HOW ABOUT HAVING US GENERALS TAKE TURNS IN DUELLING HIM UNTIL HE'S EXHAUSTED, SIR?

ISN'T THERE ANY GOOD WAY TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE?

ALLOW ME TO GO FIRST THEN.

YES, THAT'S WORTH A TRY.

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SIR! A RATHER IMPORTANT-LOOKING OFFICER HAS COME OUT ALONE FROM CAO CAO'S CAMPS!

HM?

PANG DE, ARE YOU THERE!? I AM ZHANG HE, ONE OF CAO CAO'S GENERALS! I HAVE COME HERE ALONE FOR I WISH TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH IN A DUEL!

RUNNING AWAY FROM SUCH A PUBLIC CHAL-LENGE WOULD MAKE ME A LAUGHINGSTOCK.
WILL YOU ANSWER HIS CALL, GENERAL?

GOOD!

AS YOU WISH!

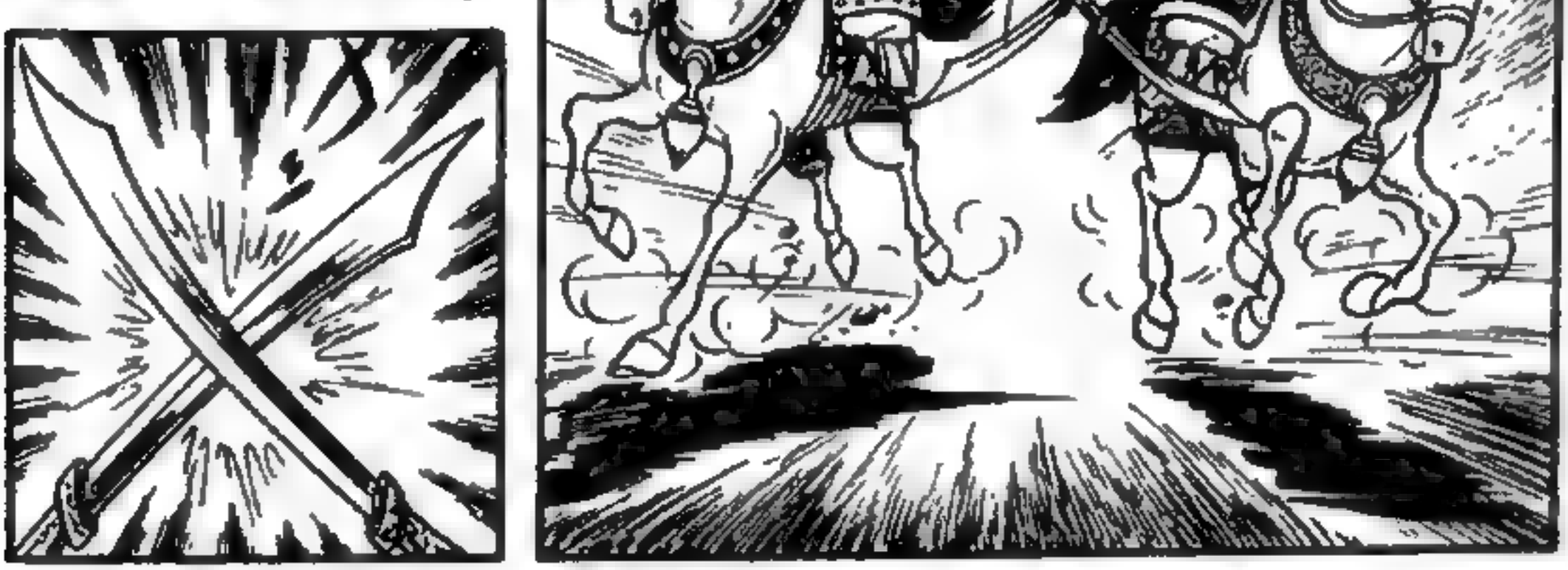
HALT! HALT RIGHT THERE!

SURE, FRIEND.

GIVE ME THE HONOUR OF THAT DUEL!

GLADLY!

XIAHOU YUAN
IS MY NAME,
NOW TAKE
MY SWING!

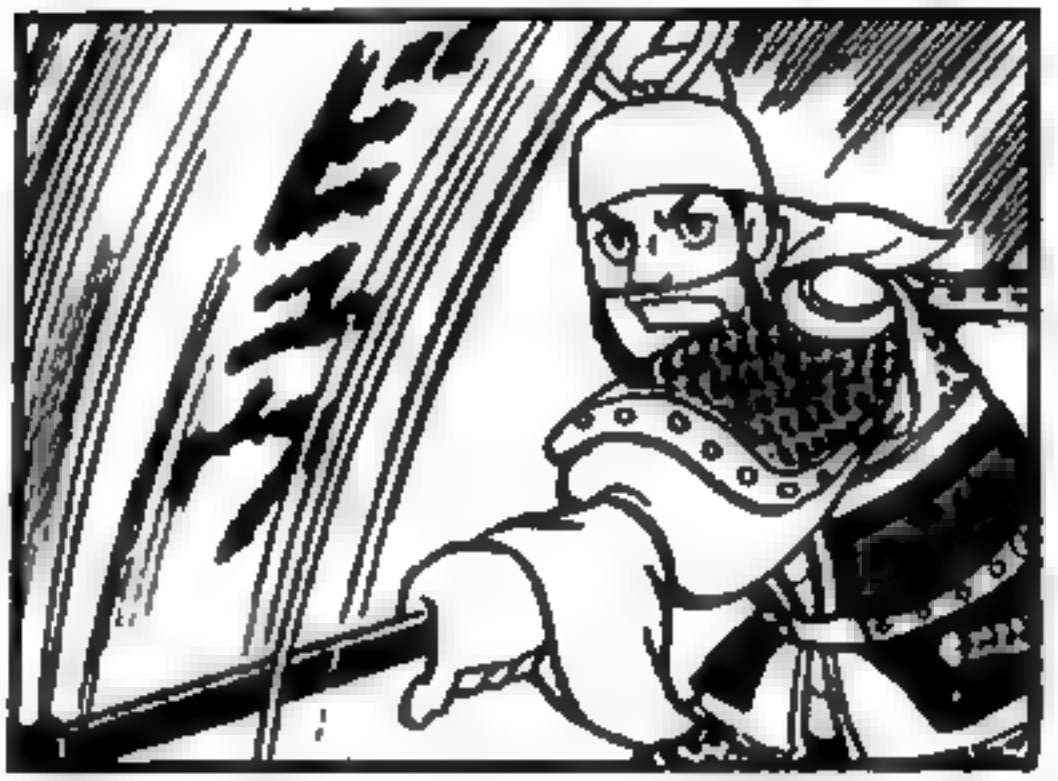


TO DUEL WITH PANG DE IS A WARRIOR'S PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR! GIVE THIS XU HUANG THAT HONOUR AS WELL!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

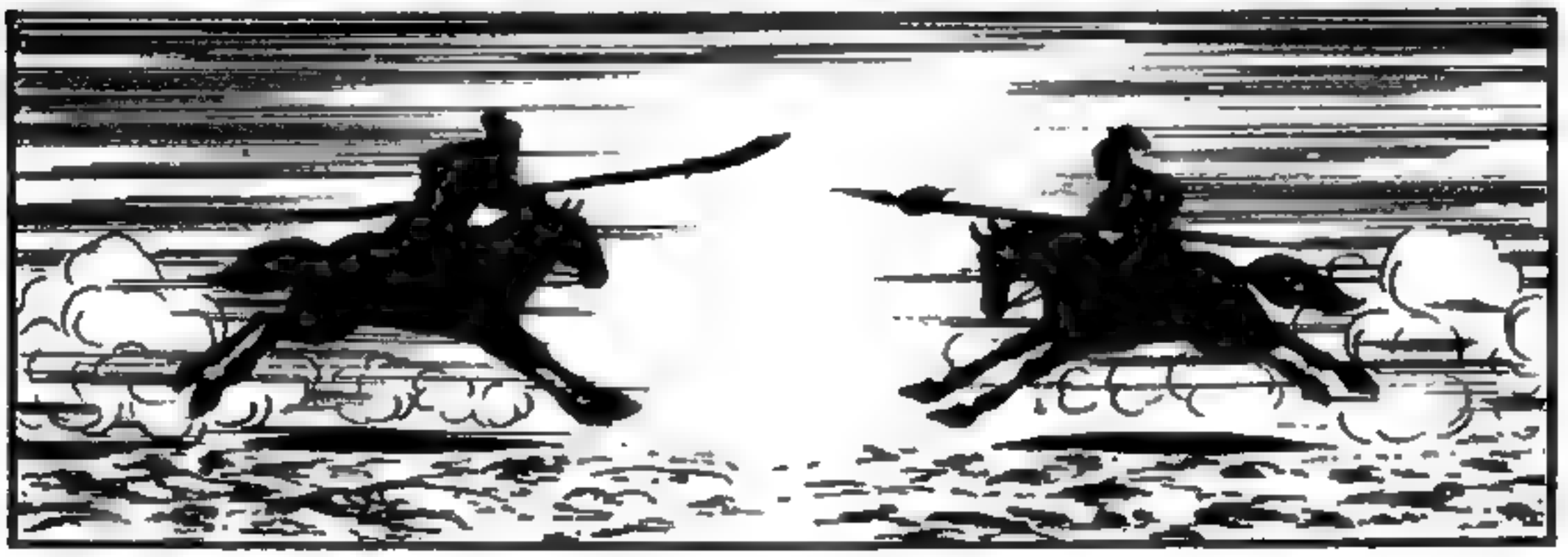
FINE!

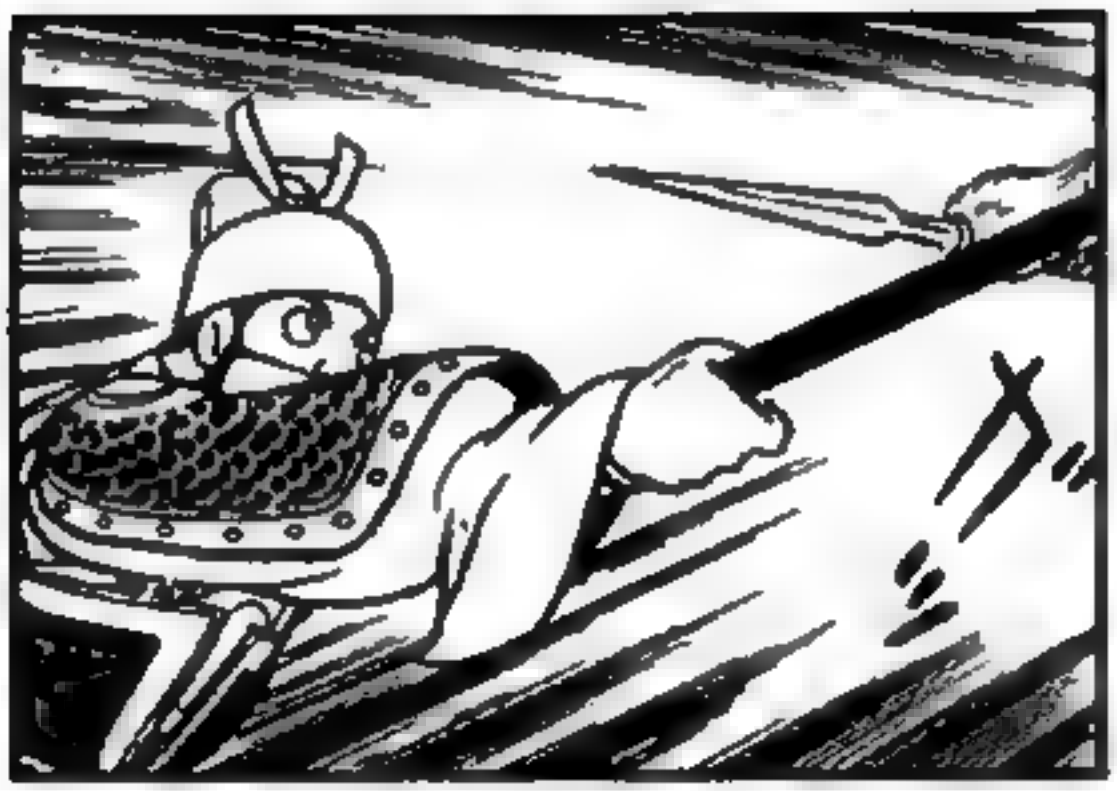
HERE I COME!



ALLOW THIS XU CHU, THE FIERCEST WARRIOR OF WEI, TO HAVE A CRACK AS WELL!

WAIT! WAIT!





THE DUEL
BETWEEN PANG
DE AND XU
CHU WENT ON
EVENLY FOR
50 BOUTS

I DESIRE HIM EVEN MORE NOW.

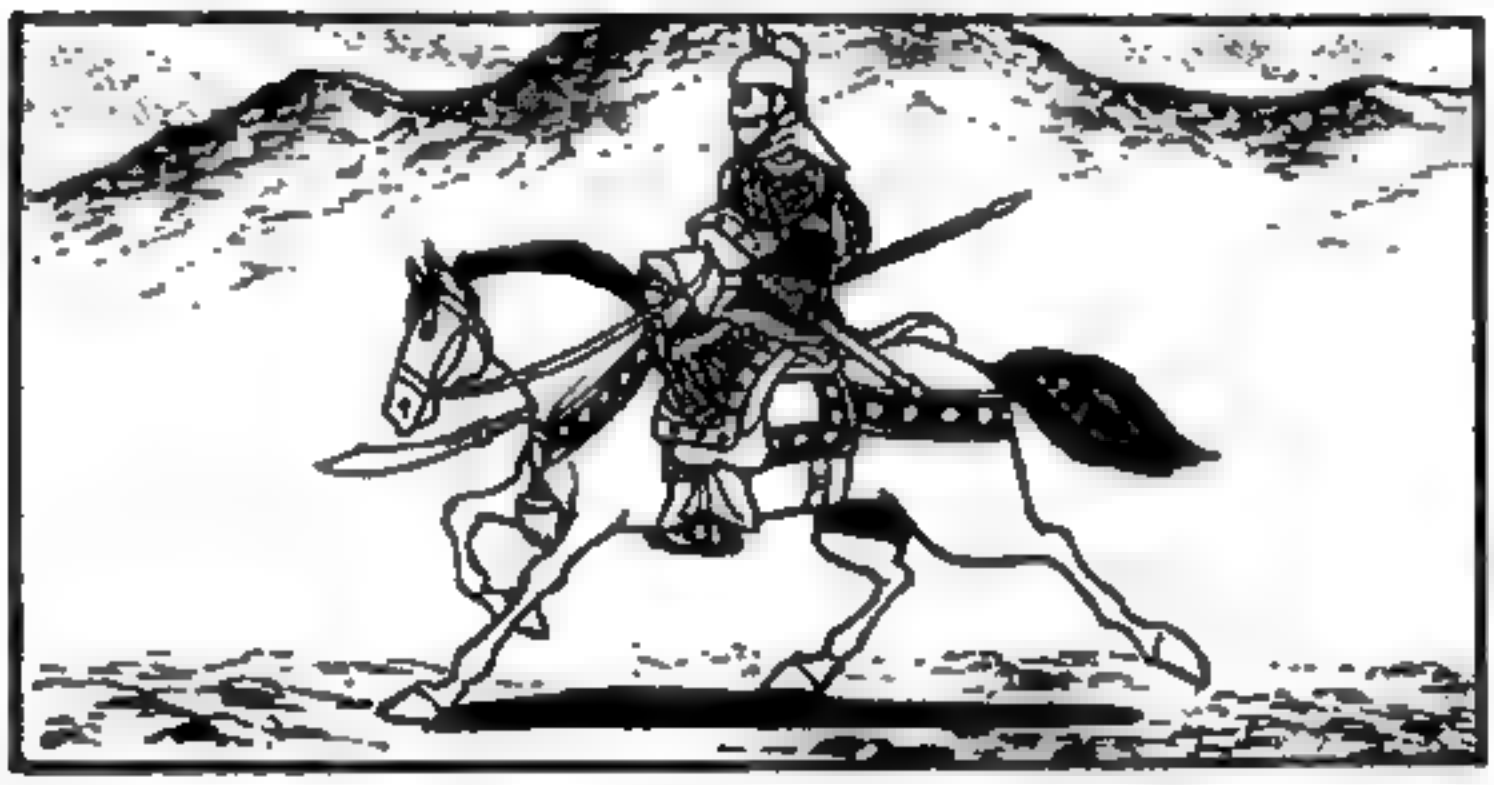
HE IS EVEN MORE IMPRES-SIVE THAN THE RUMOURS PORTRAY HIM.

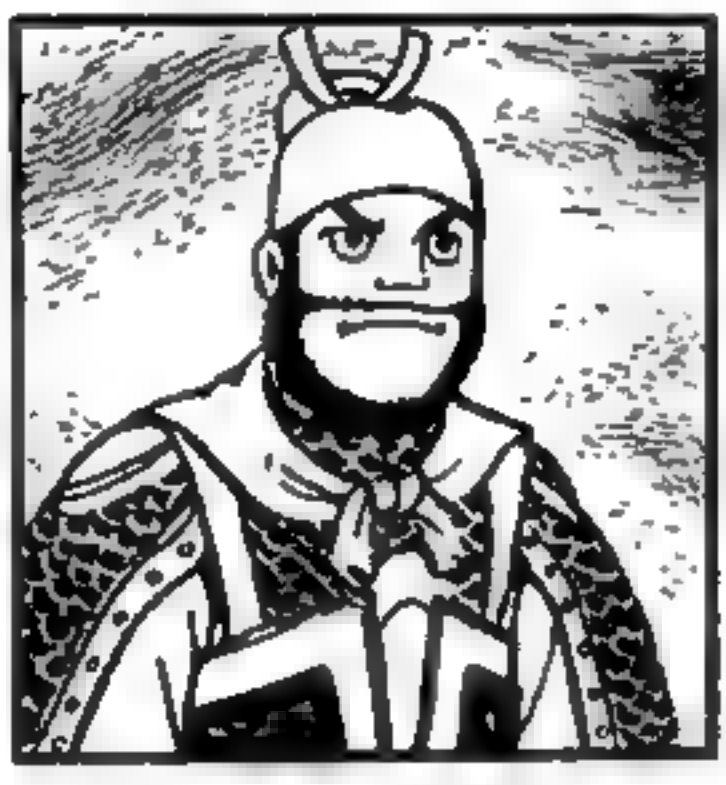
HMM, HE SHOWS NO SIGN OF EXHAUSTION.

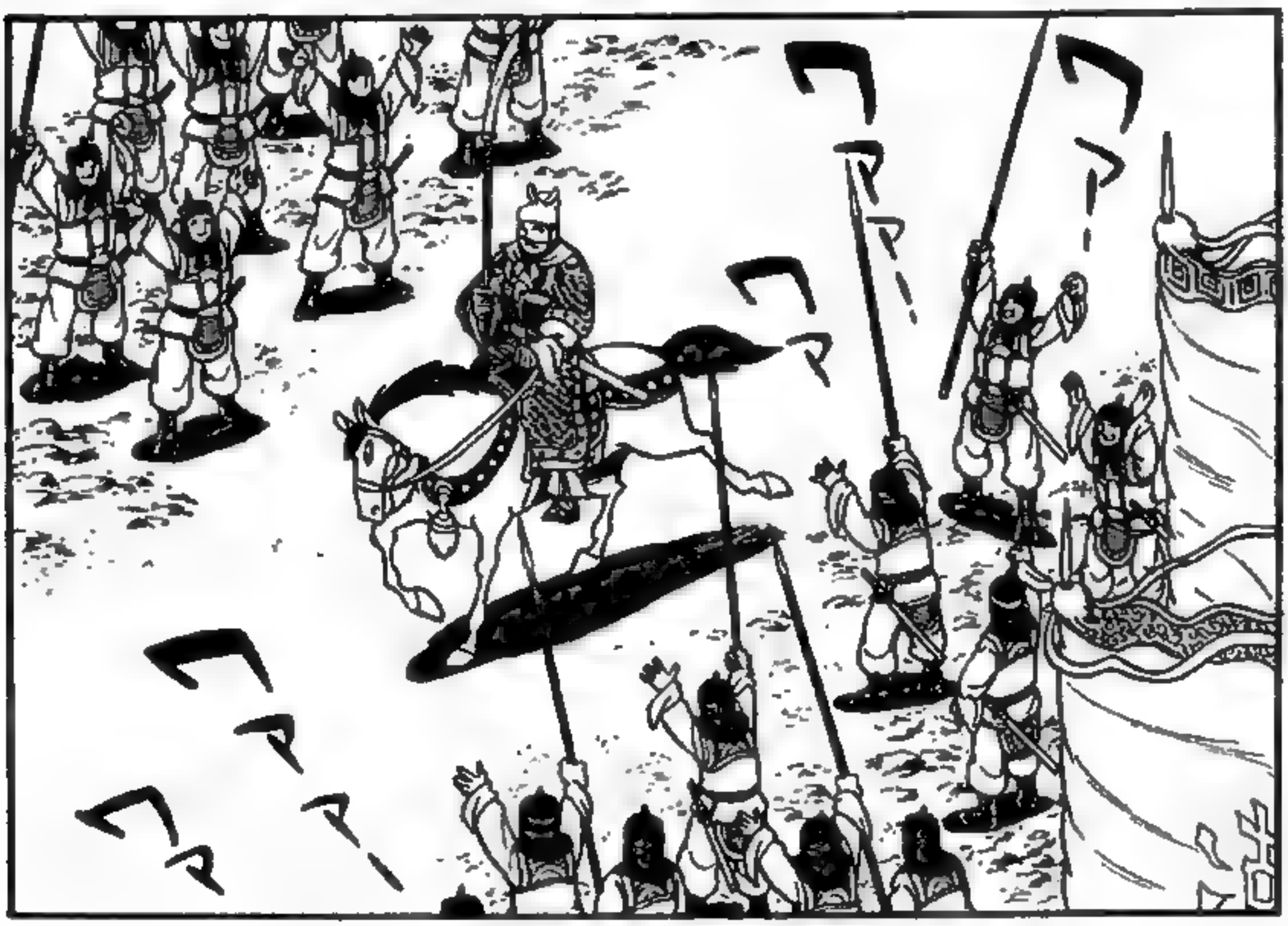
YES, SIR.

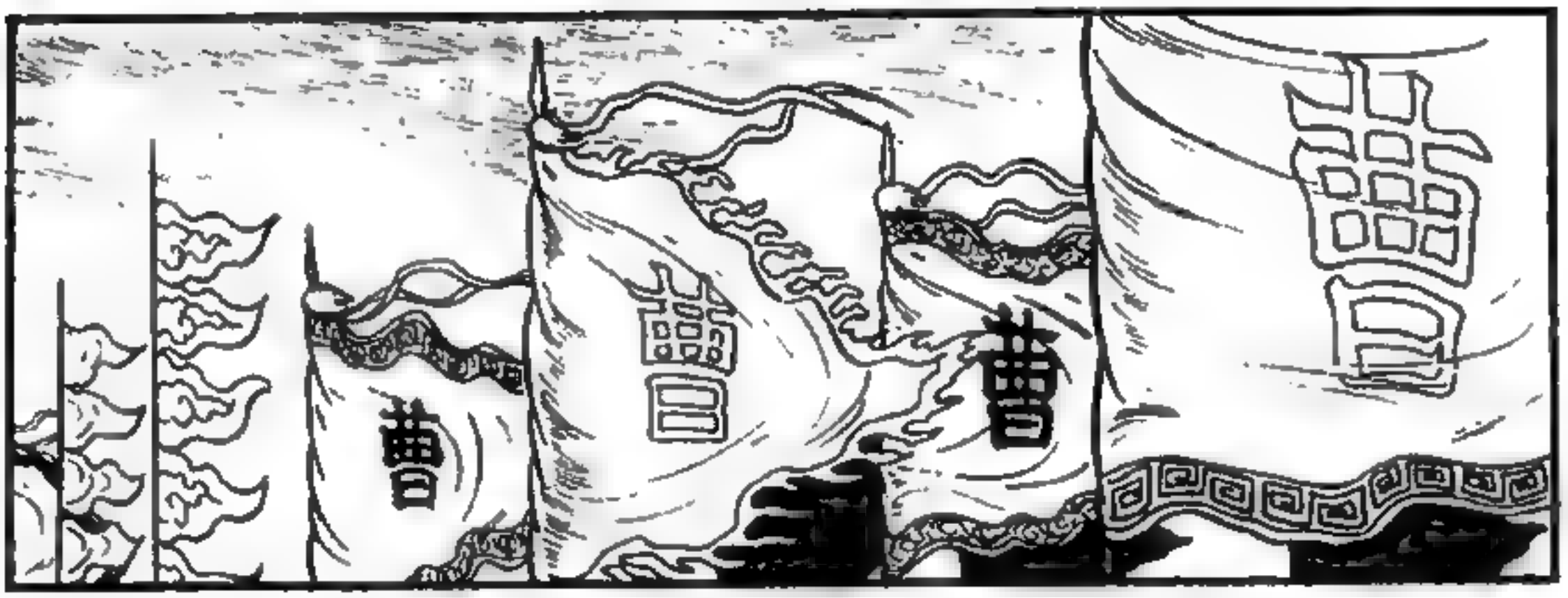
CALL BACK XU CHU.

LET US PUT OFF OUR DUEL FOR ANOTHER DAY.









YES, YES...

NOW WHAT CAN WE DO TO TURN HIM OVER TO OUR SIDE...?

A MOST SPLENDID WARRIOR, HE IS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, XU CHU?

I PROPOSE BRIBING YANG SONG TO SOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN PANG DE AND ZHANG LU.
AMONG ZHANG LU'S RETAINERS IS A MAN NAMED YANG SONG, WHO IS WEAK TO BRIBERY.

A GOOD PLAN, JIA XU, BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE SEND AN AGENT INSIDE NANZHENG?

YANG SONG, WHO IS AMONG ZHANG LU'S INNER CIRCLE, WILL SURELY SUCCEED IN TRICKING ZHANG LU.

THEN WE RETURN AT NIGHT, FORCING HIM TO RETREAT TO NANZHENG AGAIN. DURING PANG DE'S RETREAT, ONE OF OUR SPIES CAN DISGUISE HIMSELF AS AN ENEMY SOLDIER AND INFILTRATE THEIR RANKS.

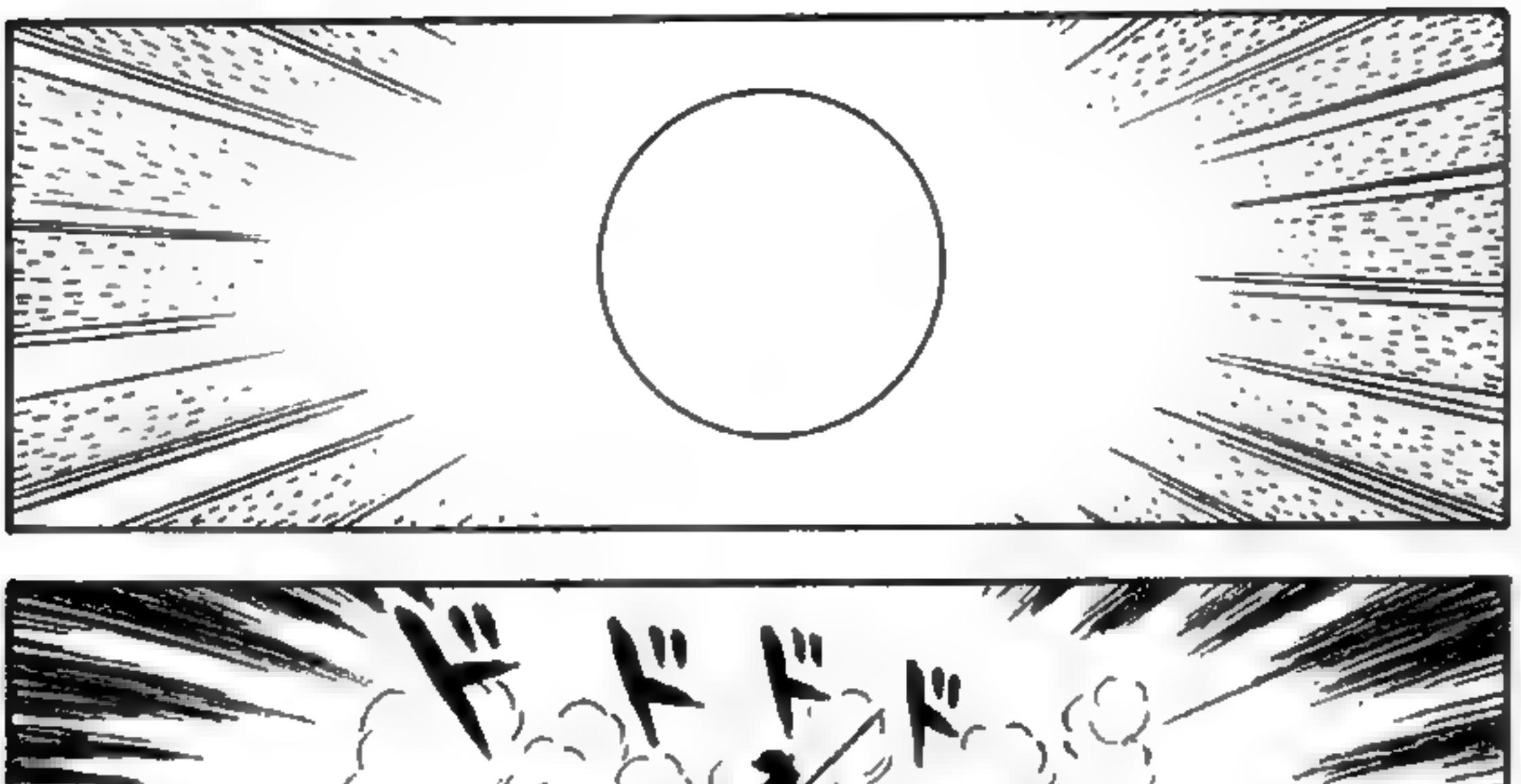
YES, AND?

TOMORROW, WE MUST FEIGN DEFEAT AND GIVE UP OUR CAMPS TO PANG DE.

YES, SIR.

LET US DO AS YOU PROPOSE THEN.

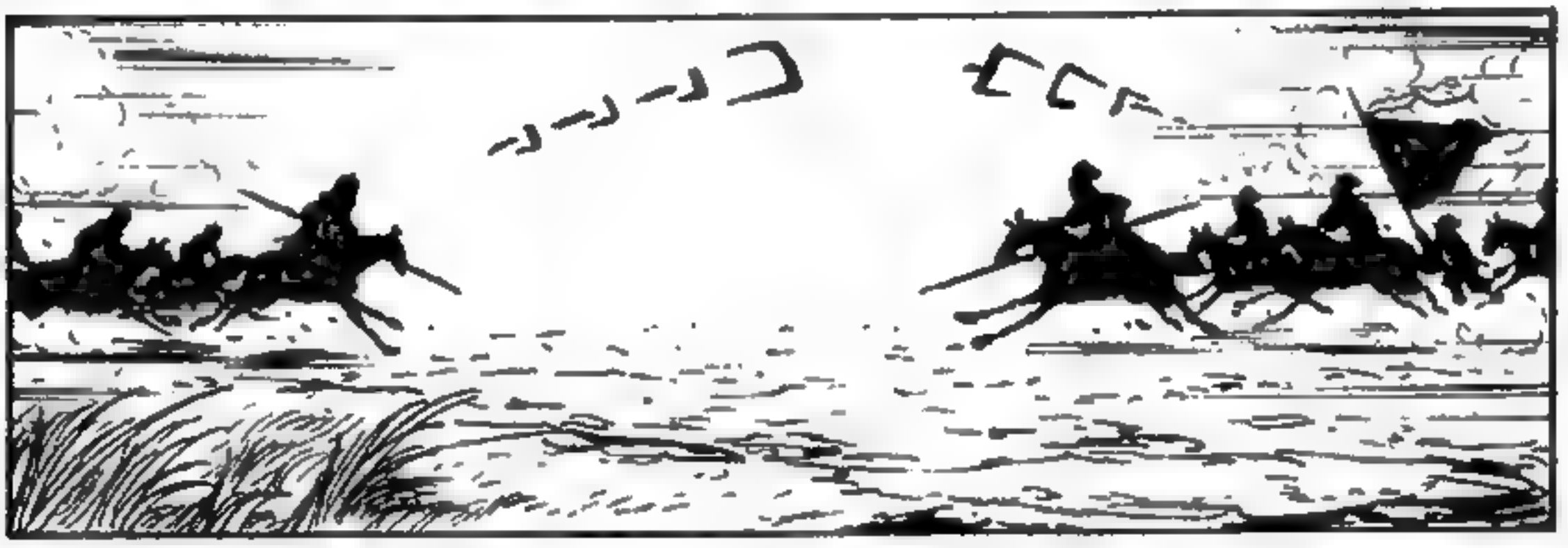
A BRILLIANT PLAN.

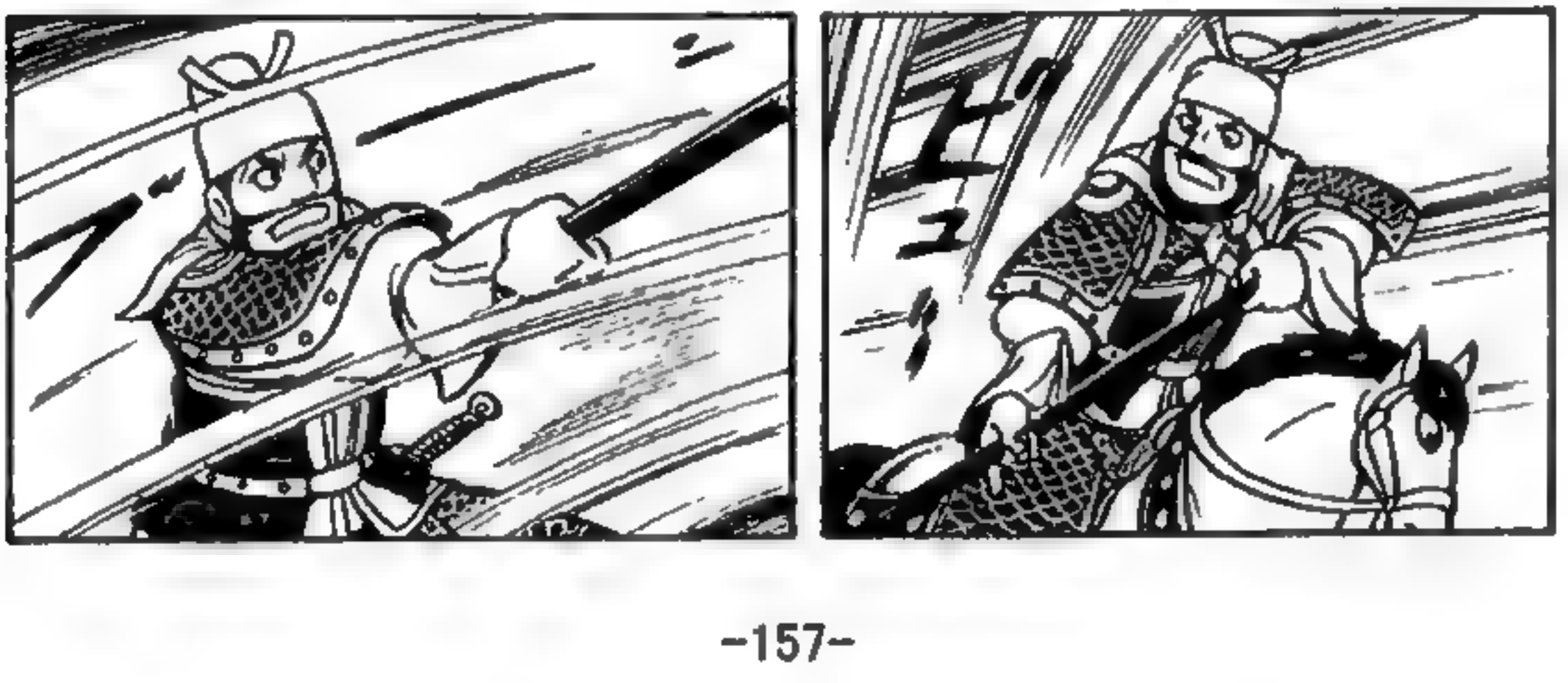


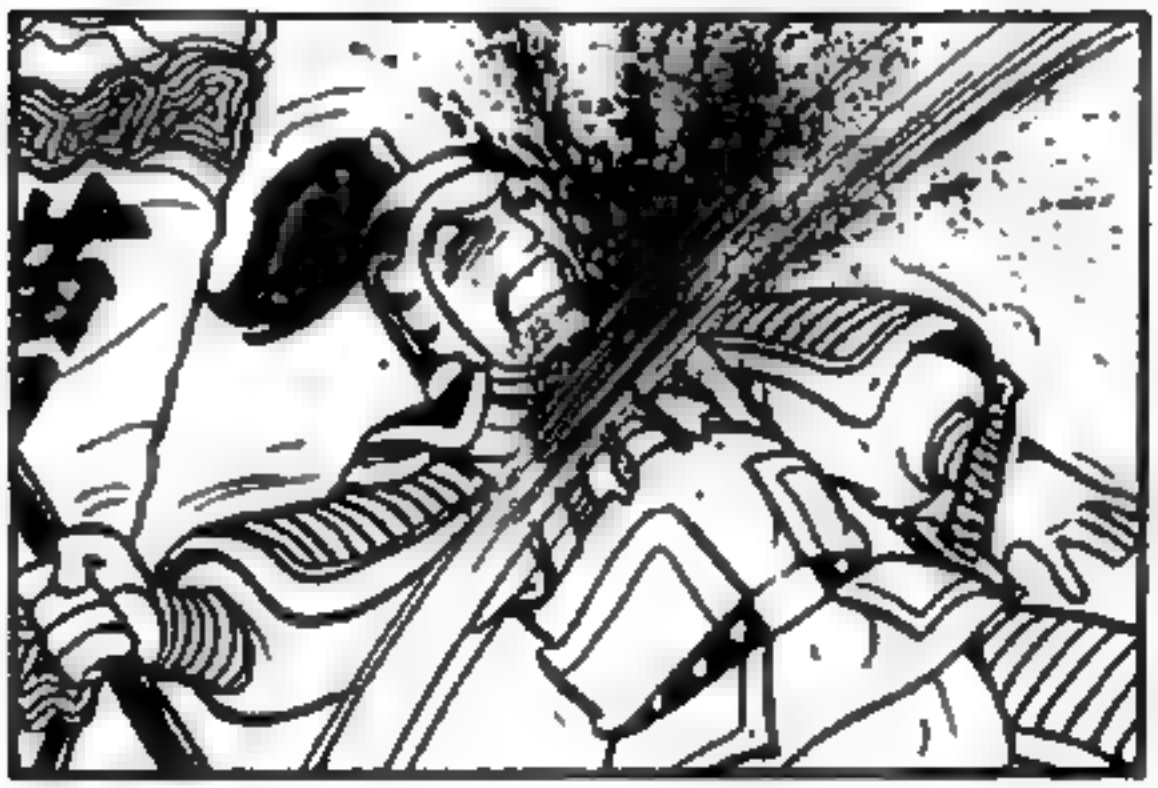
LET US MEET THEM HEAD ON!

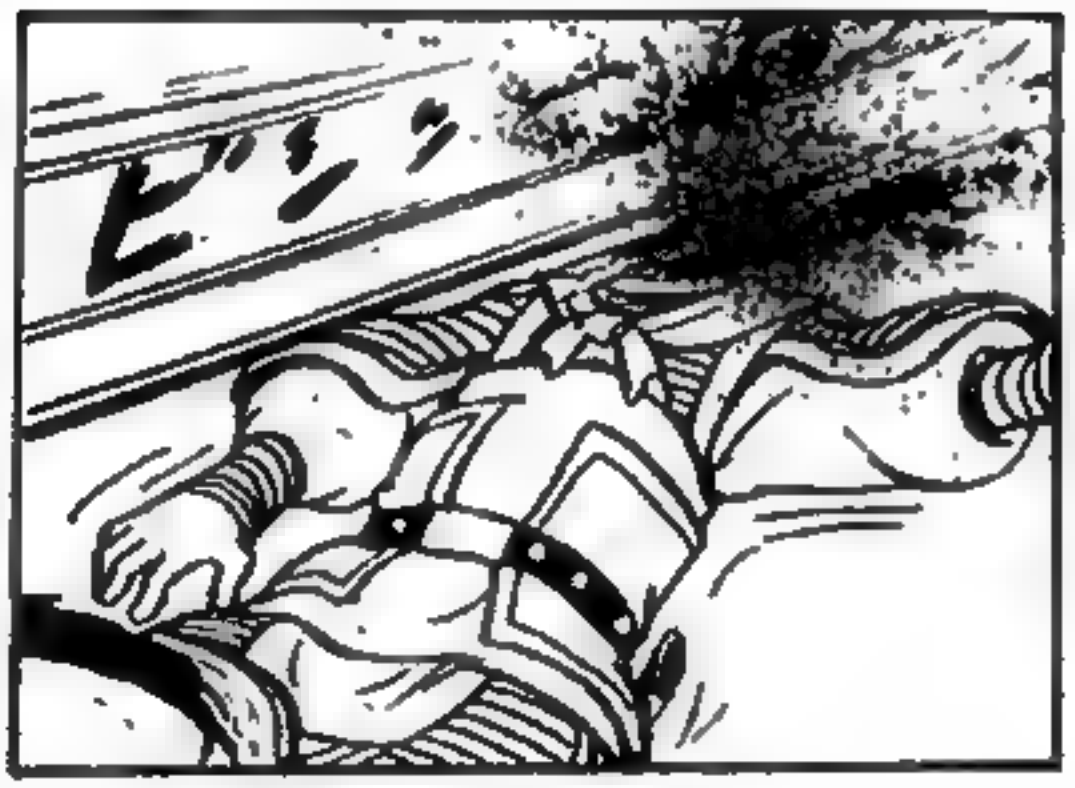
BUNCH OF PESTS...

SIR, THE ENEMIES HAVE COME OUT TO ATTACK!



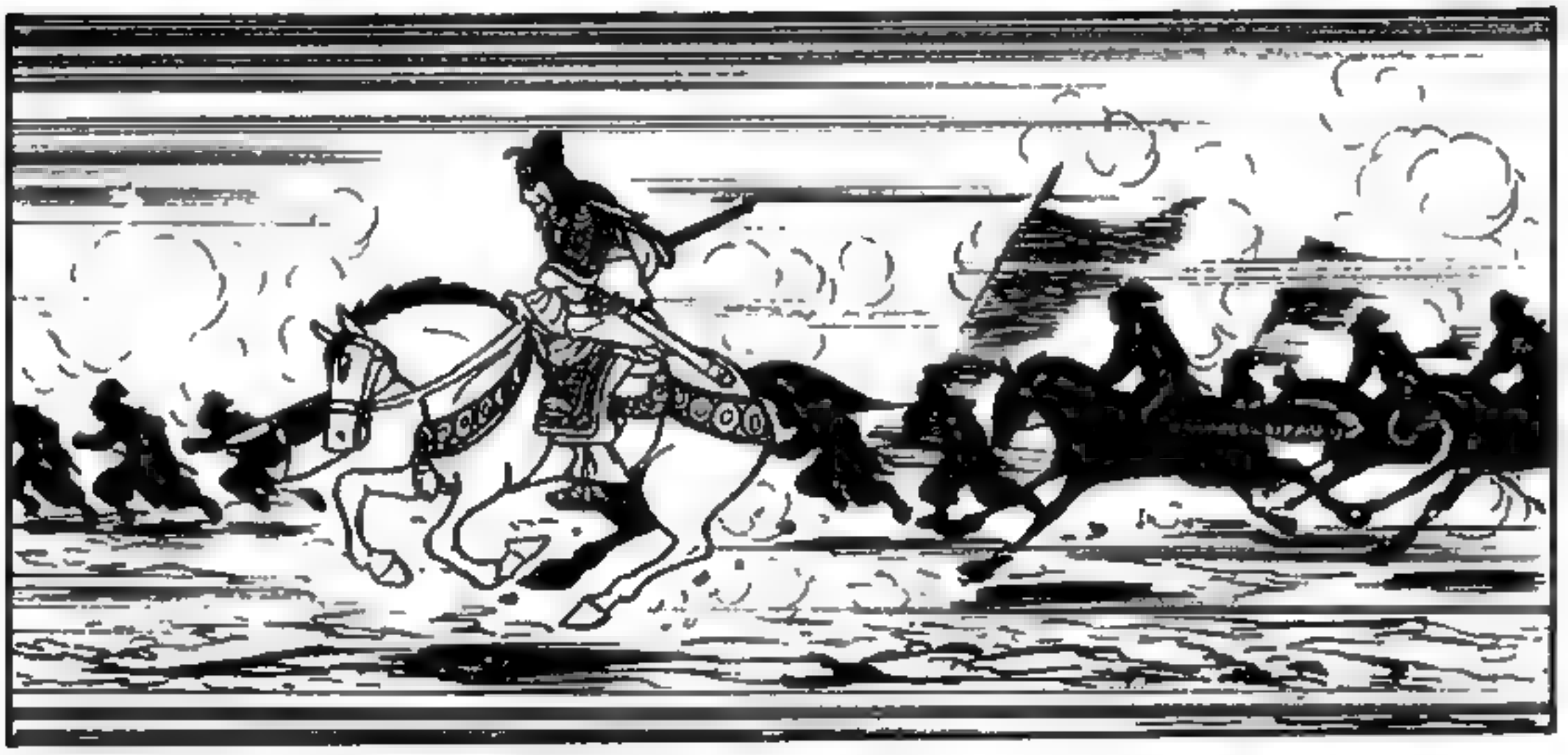




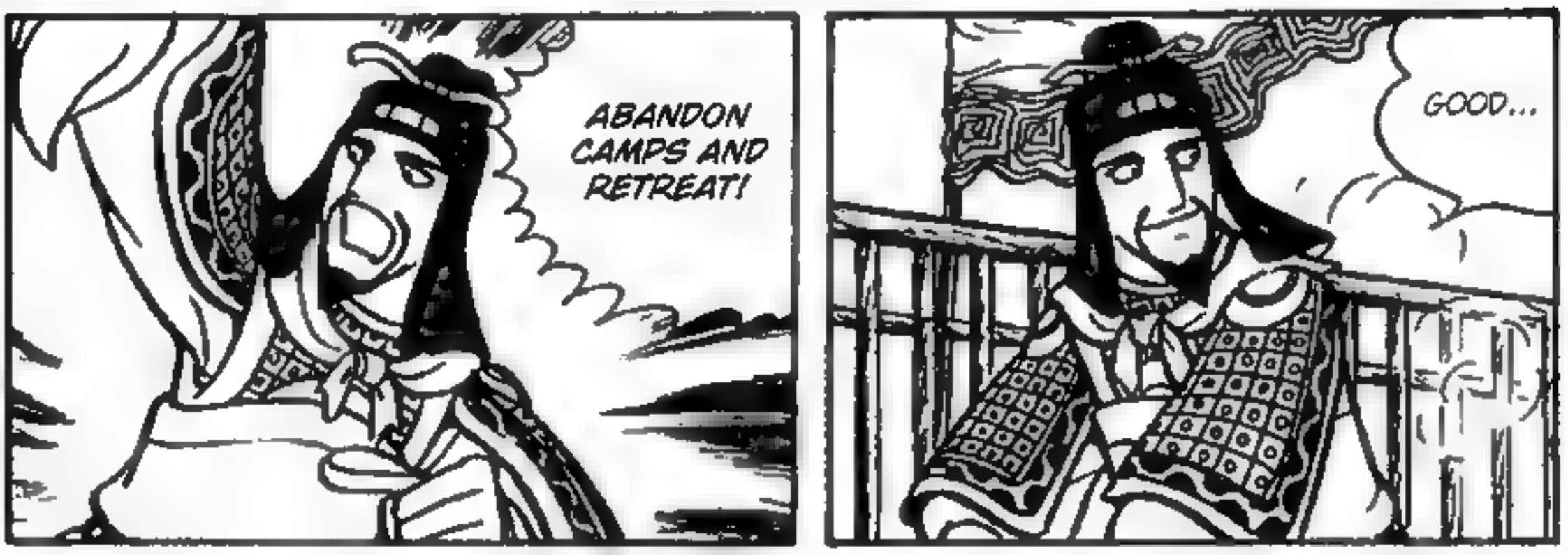


RETREAT!
RETREAT!

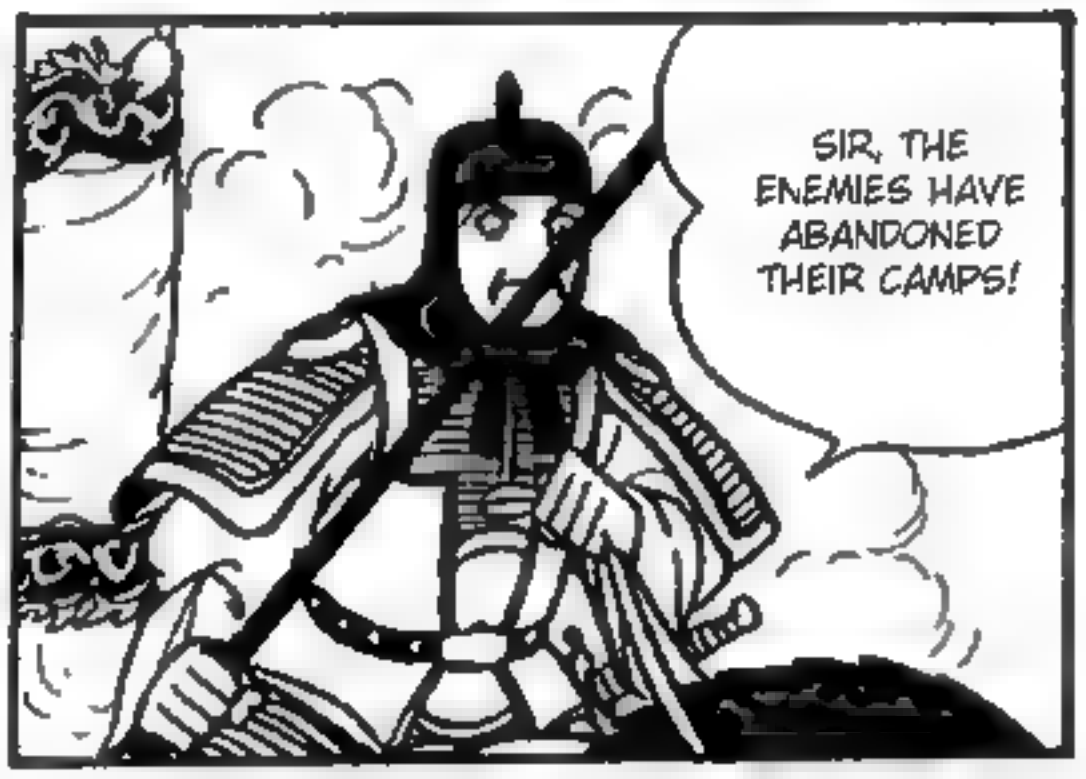
OUR FORCES ARE DOING BADLY...

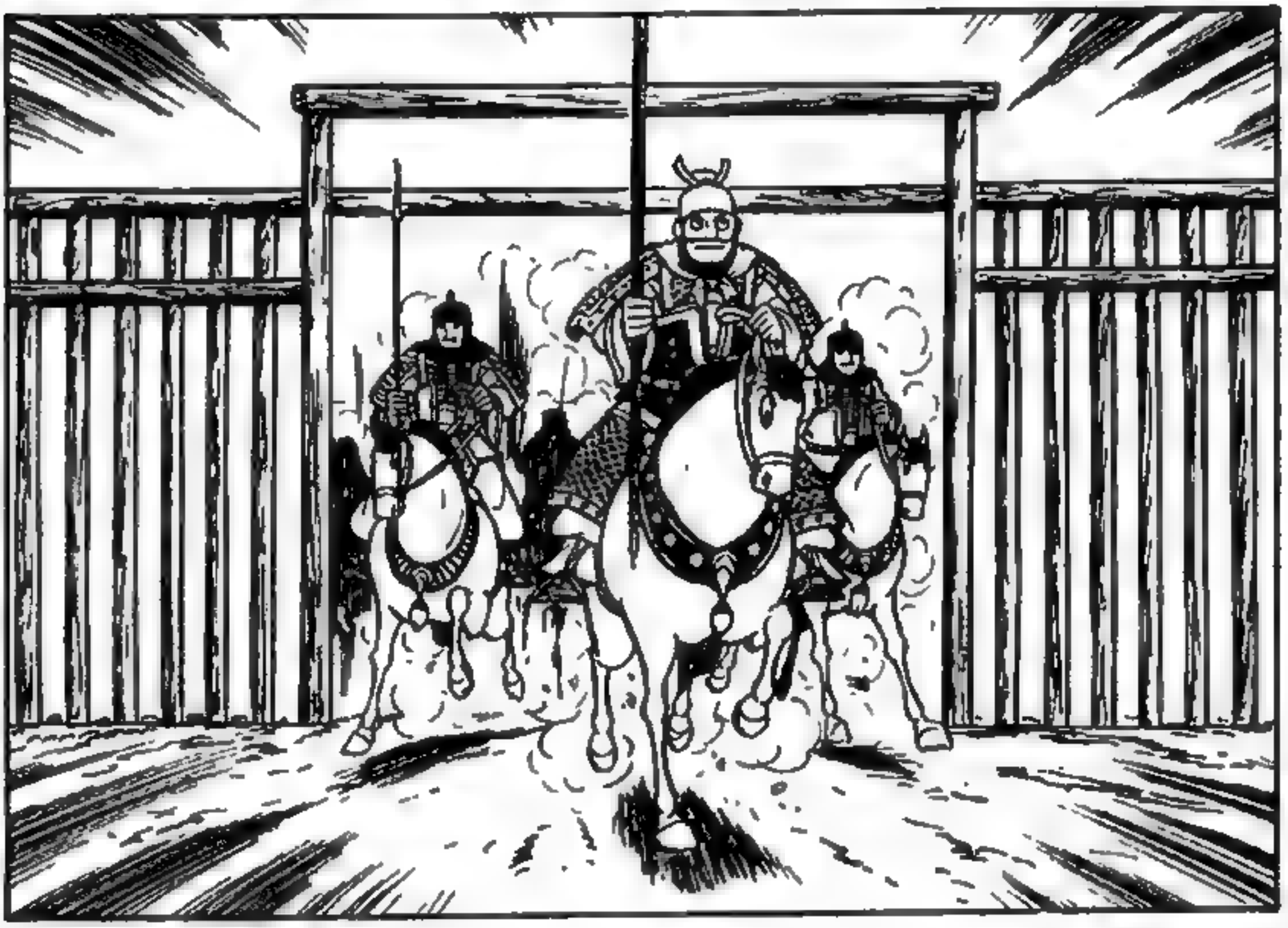


DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


ABANDON CAMPS AND RETREAT!
GOOD...

CHARGE RIGHT IN THEN!


SIR, THE ENEMIES HAVE ABANDONED THEIR CAMPS!



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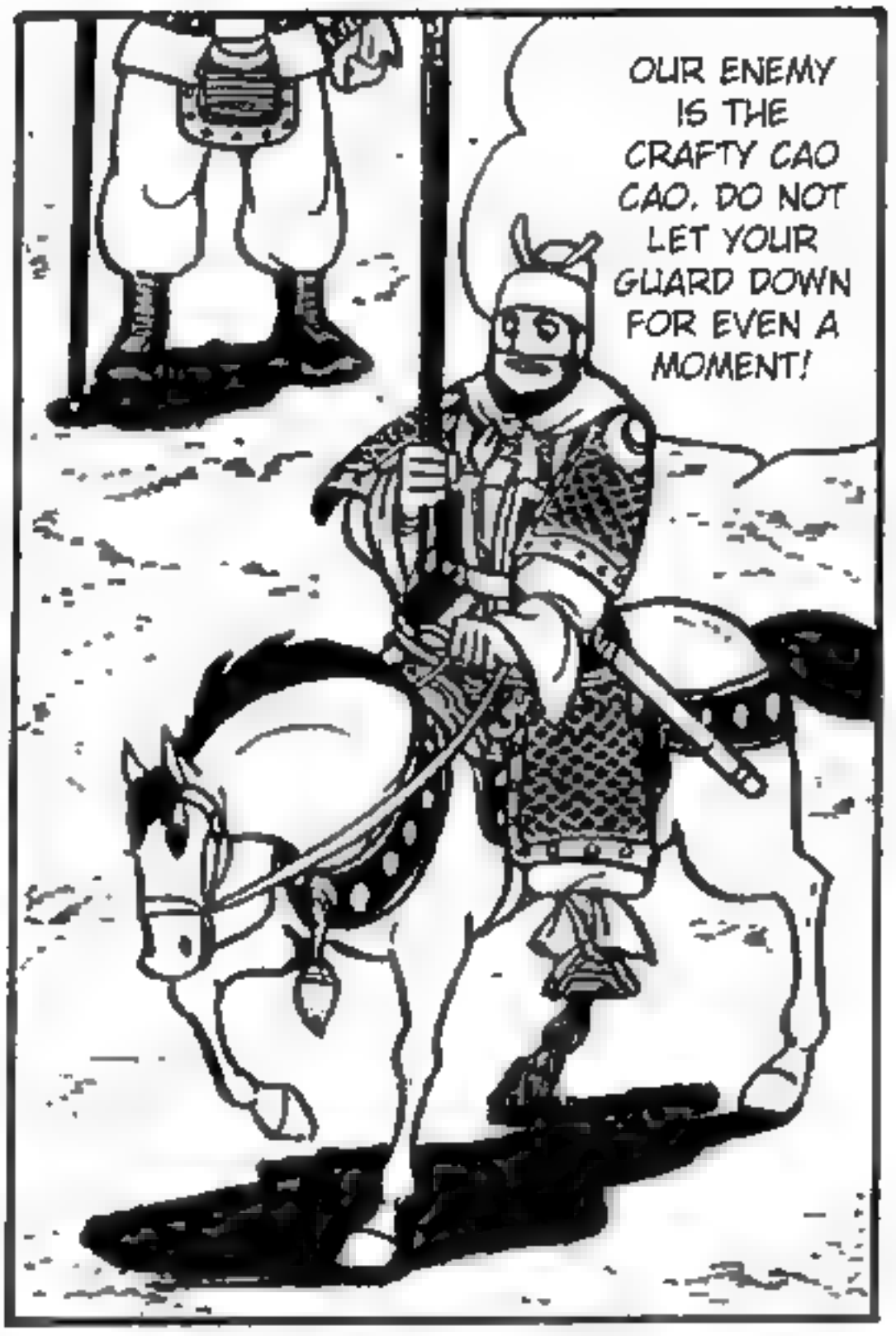
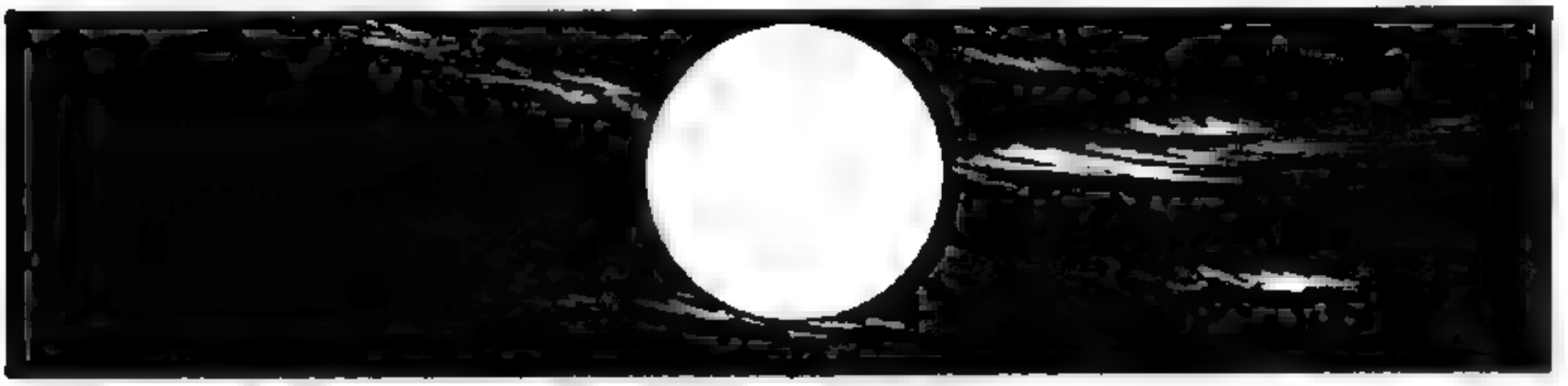
OHHH!

WOULD THE ENEMIES REALLY SO EASILY ABANDON ALL THIS...?

JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE GRAIN AND SUPPLIES!

YES, SIR!
DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF WATCH-GUARDS!


OUR ENEMY IS THE CRAFTY CAO CAO. DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN FOR EVEN A MOMENT!

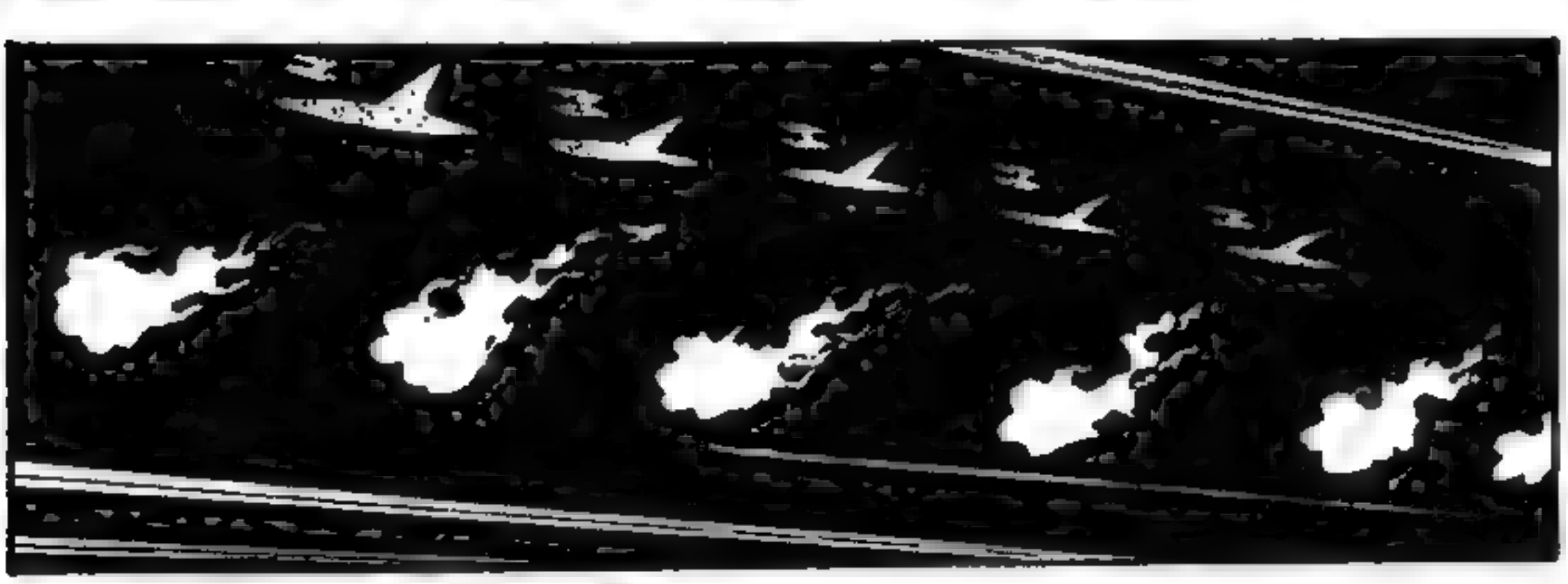


HM?

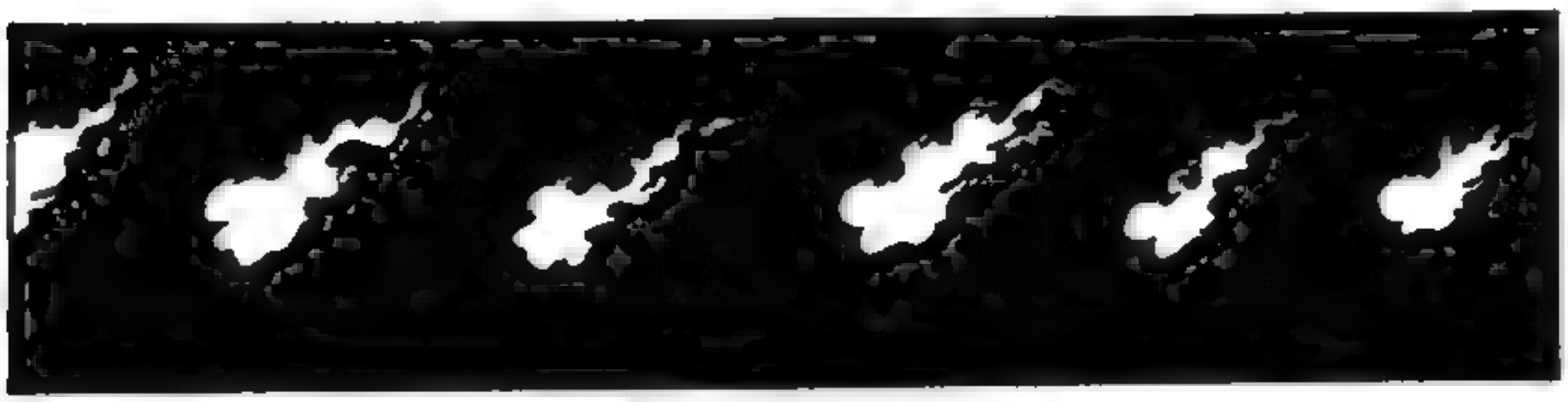
GENEAL!
ENEMY
TORCHLIGHTS
SPOTTED!

AH!

WHAT!

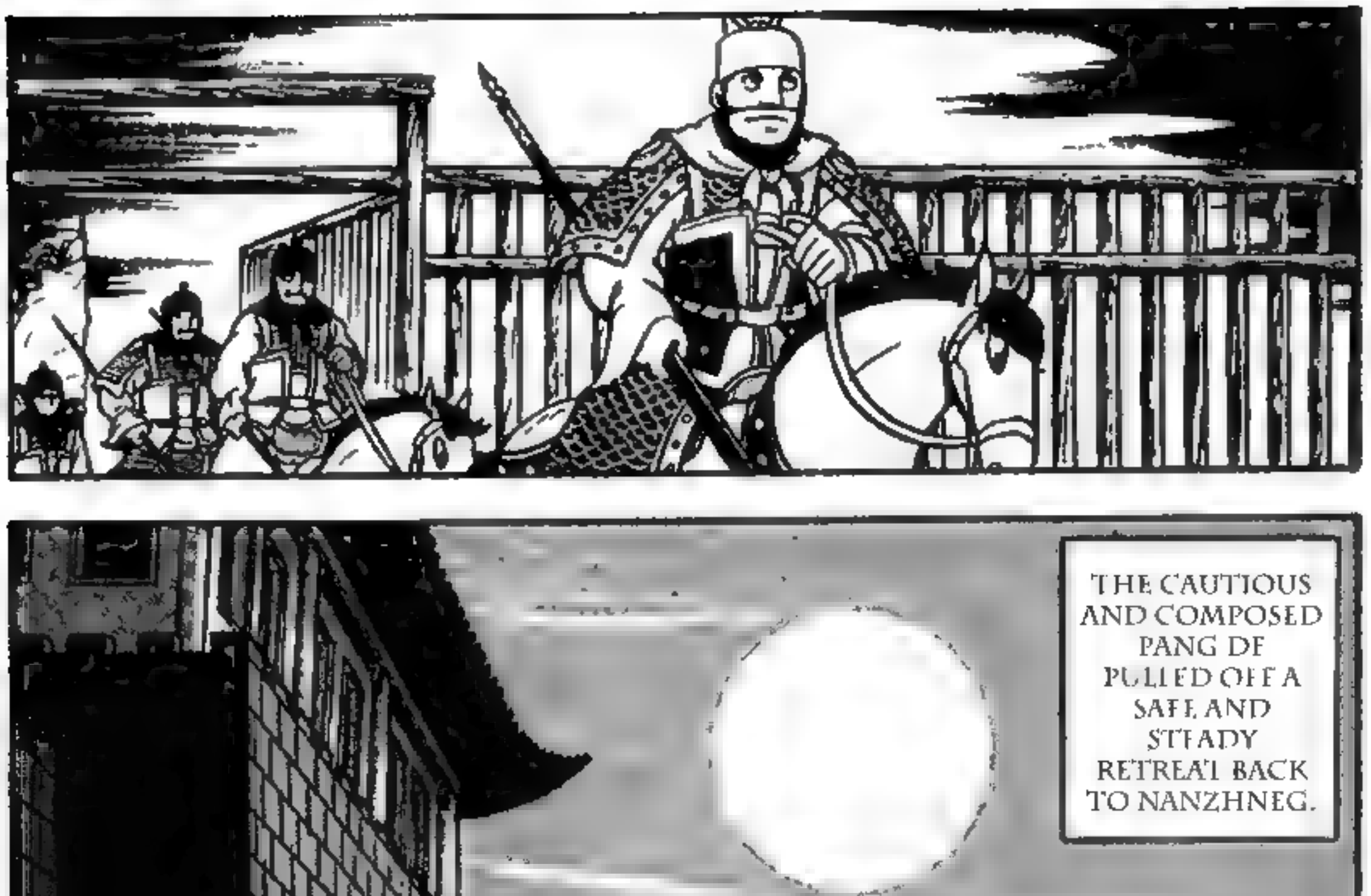


THERE ARE ENEMIES TO OUR FRONT, LEFT, AND RIGHT!



STAY CALM AND FALL BACK TO NANZHENG!

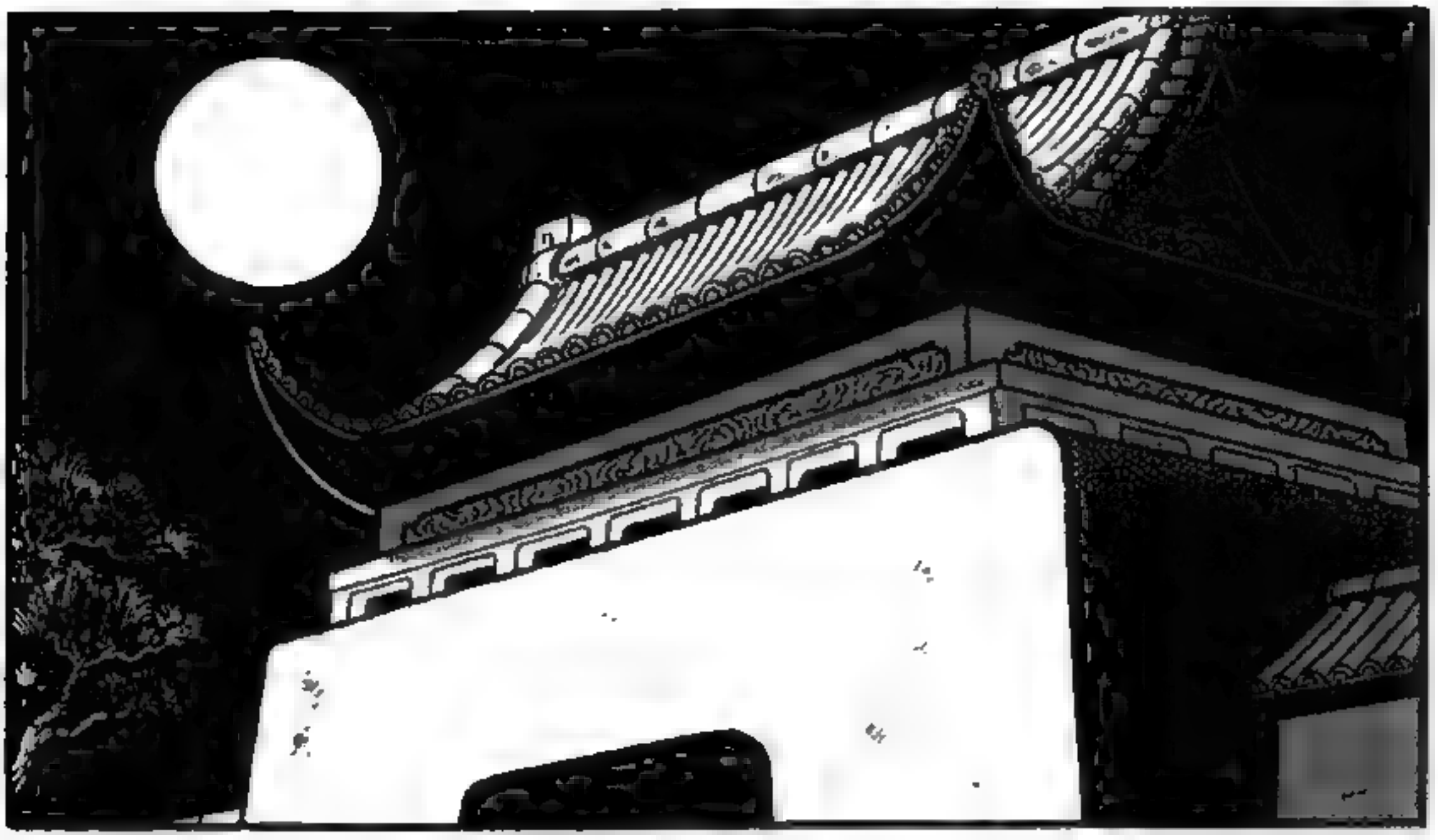
I EXPECTED AS MUCH.


THE CAUTIOUS AND COMPOSED PANG DE PULLED OFF A SAFE AND STEADY RETREAT BACK TO NANZHNEG.

THE GATES SHUT TIGHT AFTERWARDS.

BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE CAO CAO'S AGENT HAD SUCCESS-FULLY SNUCK INSIDE

DEBT OF GRATITUDE



?

HE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.

YES, SIR.

FINE, LET HIM IN.

GOLD!?

YES IT IS.

I AM CAO CAO'S MESSENGER.

I AM YANG SONG. WHOM MAY YOU BE?

WHAT!?

AND SHOULD YOU PROVIDE IT, GIFTS WILL BE OF COURSE ASSURED...

THE CHANCELLOR IS DIRE FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE,

YES.

A GOLDEN BREAST-PLATE!

THIS IS HIS LETTER.

IT HAS!?

A LOFTY POSITION HAS ALSO BEEN PROMISED.

THAT IS GOOD TO HEAR.

TELL HIM I WILL CARRY OUT HIS REQUEST.

HMM...

HEE HEE HEE!

HOW ELSE CAN YOU EXPLAIN HIM ABANDONING THE CAPTURED ENEMY CAMPS WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO DEFEND IT?

YES, HE IS ONLY PRETENDING TO PUT UP A FIGHT.
WHAT!? PANG DE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED?

YOU MUST REMEMBER PANG DE IS ONE OF MA CHAO'S RETAINERS. HE HAS NO REAL INTENTION OF FIGHTING FOR US.

HMM... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HEAR HE FLED BACK HERE AS SOON AS HE SAW ENEMY TORCHLIGHTS.

COULD THERE BE ANY OTHER EXCUSE FOR GIVING UP ALL THE CAPTURED GRAIN AND SUPPLIES?

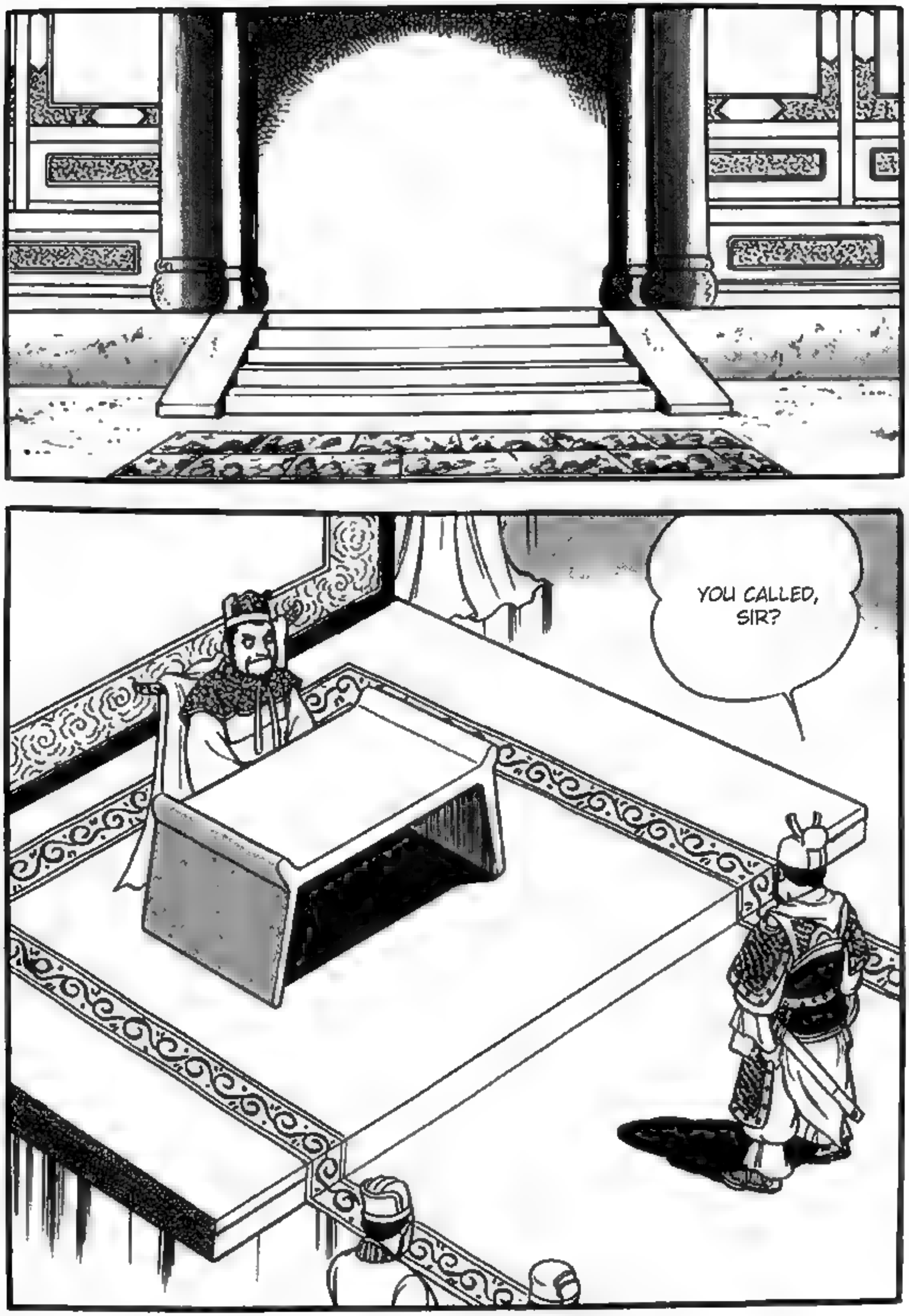
HM...

WHAT!?

AS SUCH, ALL SIGNS POINT TOWARDS HIM WORKING WITH CAO CAO...

CALL FORTH PANG DE!

I THINK YOU MAY HAVE A POINT THERE.


YOU CALLED, SIR?

YOU INGRATE-FUL TRAITOR! HOW DARE YOU TRY TO SELL ME OUT TO CAO CAO!

YOU CAPTURE THE ENEMY BASE ONLY TO GIVE IT BACK UP WITHOUT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST RESISTANCE! HOW CAN SUCH A HALF-ASSED WAR BE ANYTHING *BUT* A FARCE!?

WHAT IS THE EXACT REASONING BEHIND THESE ACCUSALS?

THE ENEMIES ABANDONED THEIR CAMPS TOO EASILY AND I NATURALLY SUSPECTED SOME SORT OF TRAP. WHEN I SAW ENEMIES APPROACHING FROM THREE DIRECTIONS LATER THAT NIGHT, I REALIZED THAT THIS MUST BE THEIR PLAN AND PLAYED IT SAFE BY RETREATING.

IT IS TRUE.

THEN LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE! IS IT NOT TRUE THAT YOU DUELLED WITH SEVERAL OF CAO CAO'S GENERALS!?

HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS!?

EVEN THOUGH YOU FOUGHT 4 GENERALS BACK-TO-BACK WITHOUT PAUSE, YOU DID NOT RECEIVE EVEN A SCRATCH, AS DID NONE OF YOUR FOES.

EXACTLY! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF!?

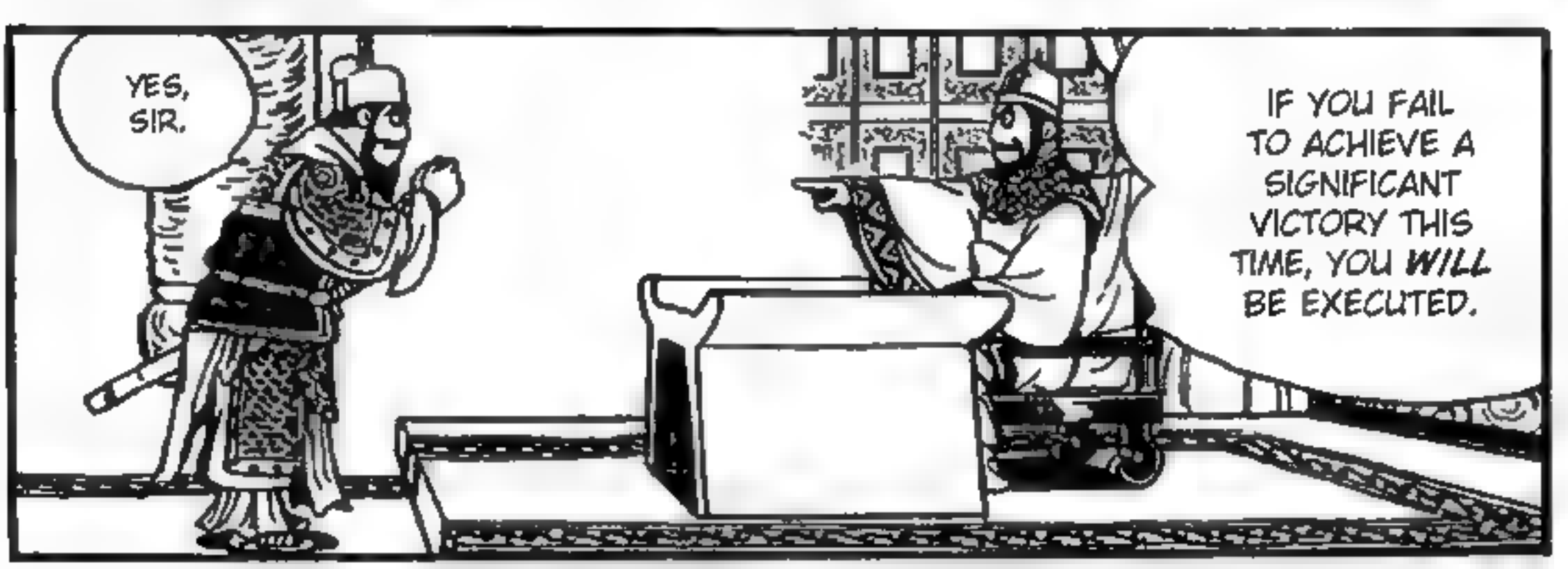
IT'S INCONCEIVABLE IN AN ACTUAL DUEL.

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

HM...

WHY NOT GIVE PANG DE A CHANCE TO PROVE HIS LOYALTY?
PLEASE CALM DOWN, SIR.

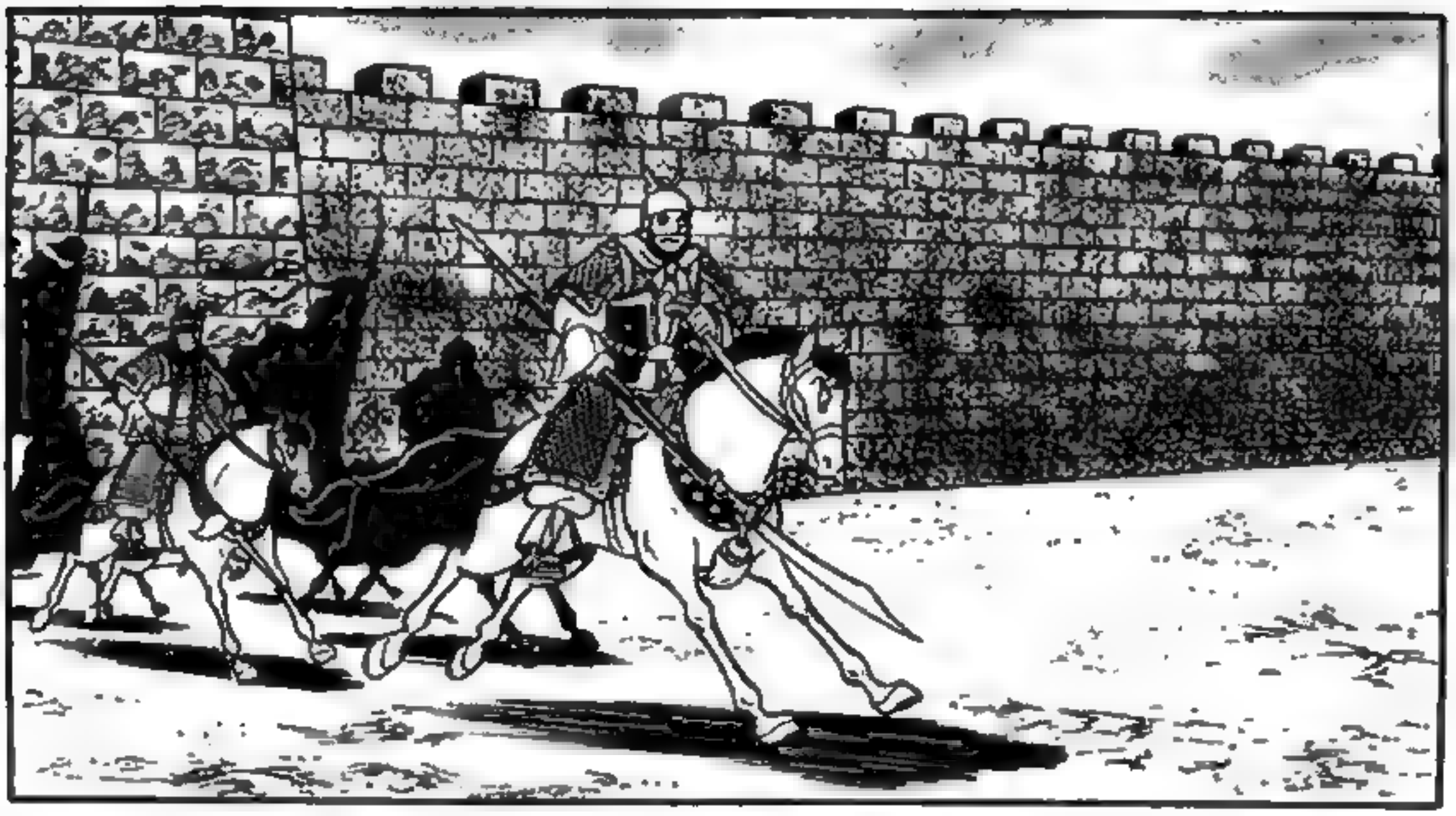
FINE, BUT ONLY ONCE.

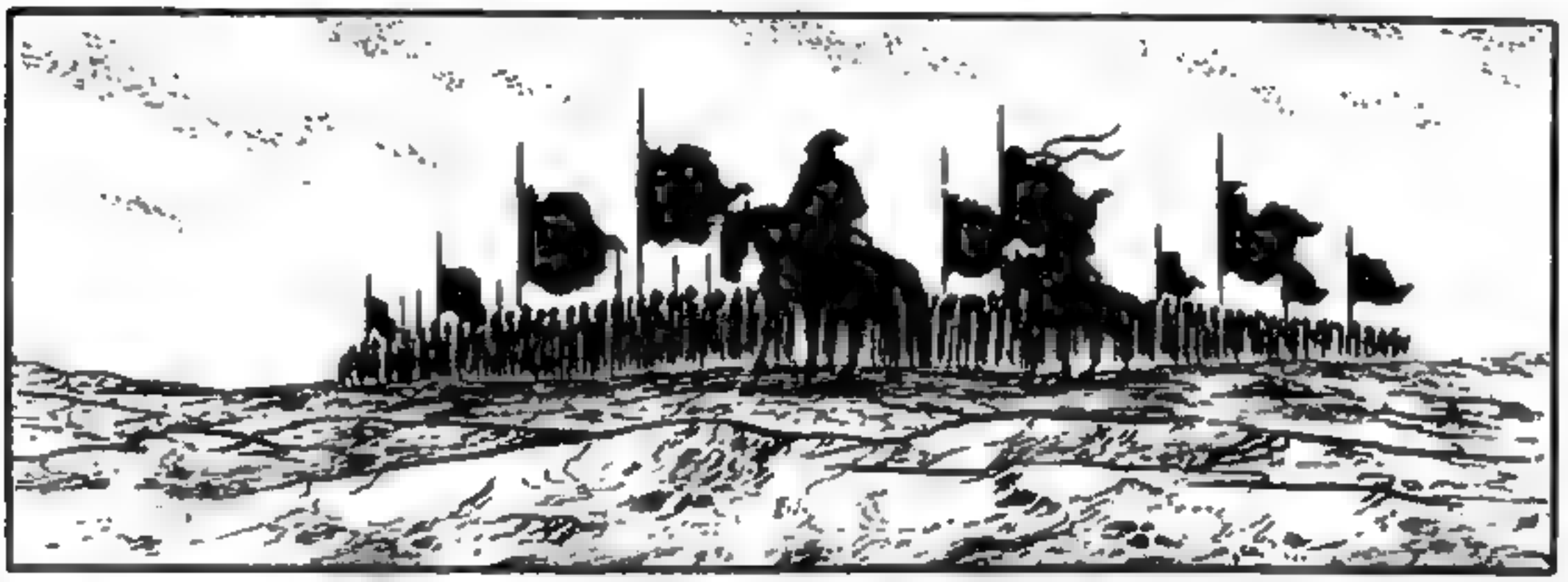

YES, SIR.
IF YOU FAIL TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY THIS TIME, YOU *WILL* BE EXECUTED.

THIS MAY BE MY LAST DAY ON EARTH.

GRATITUDE... WHAT A HEAVY DEBT IT IS...

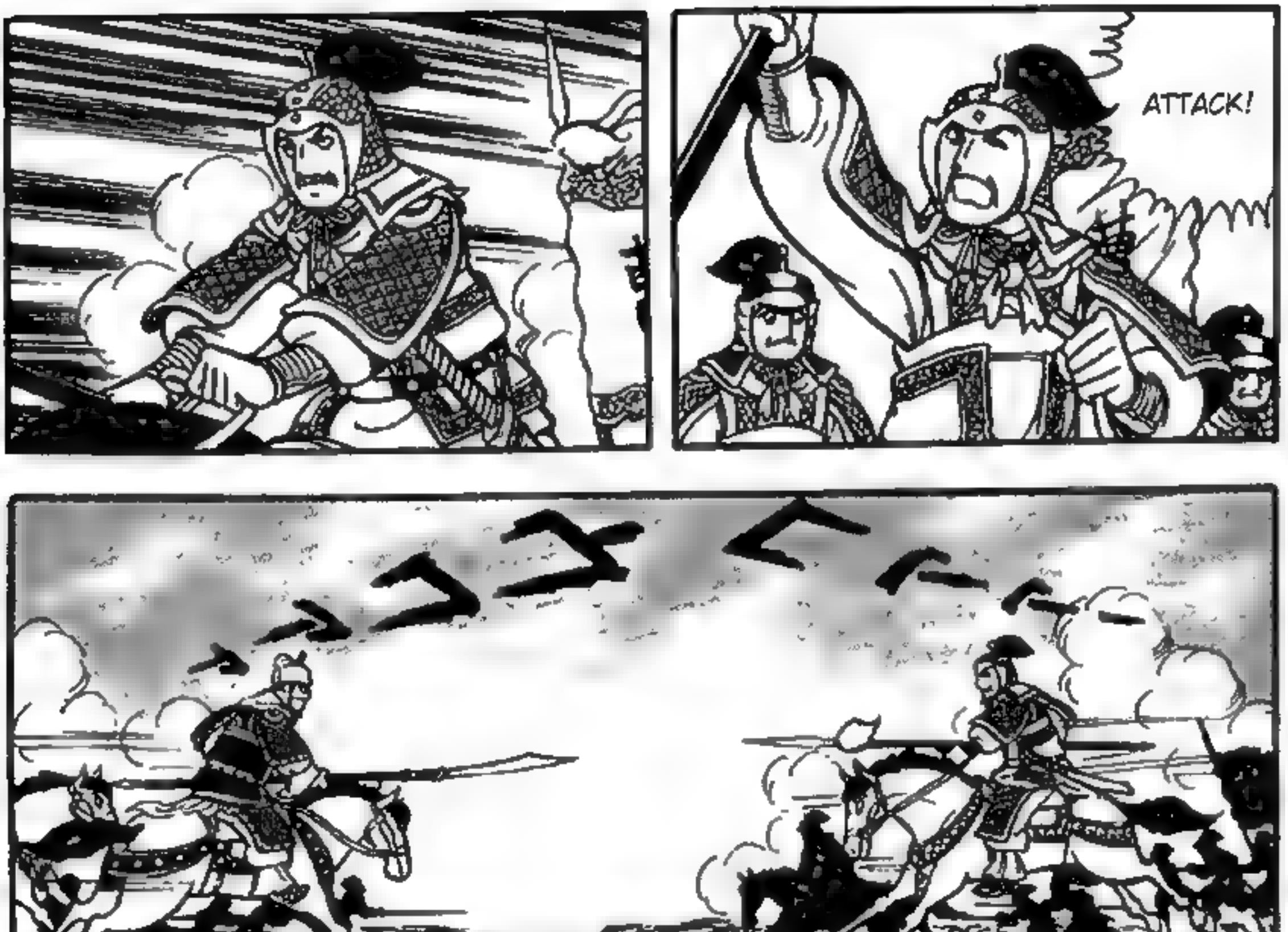
LET US SET FORTH, TROOPS!

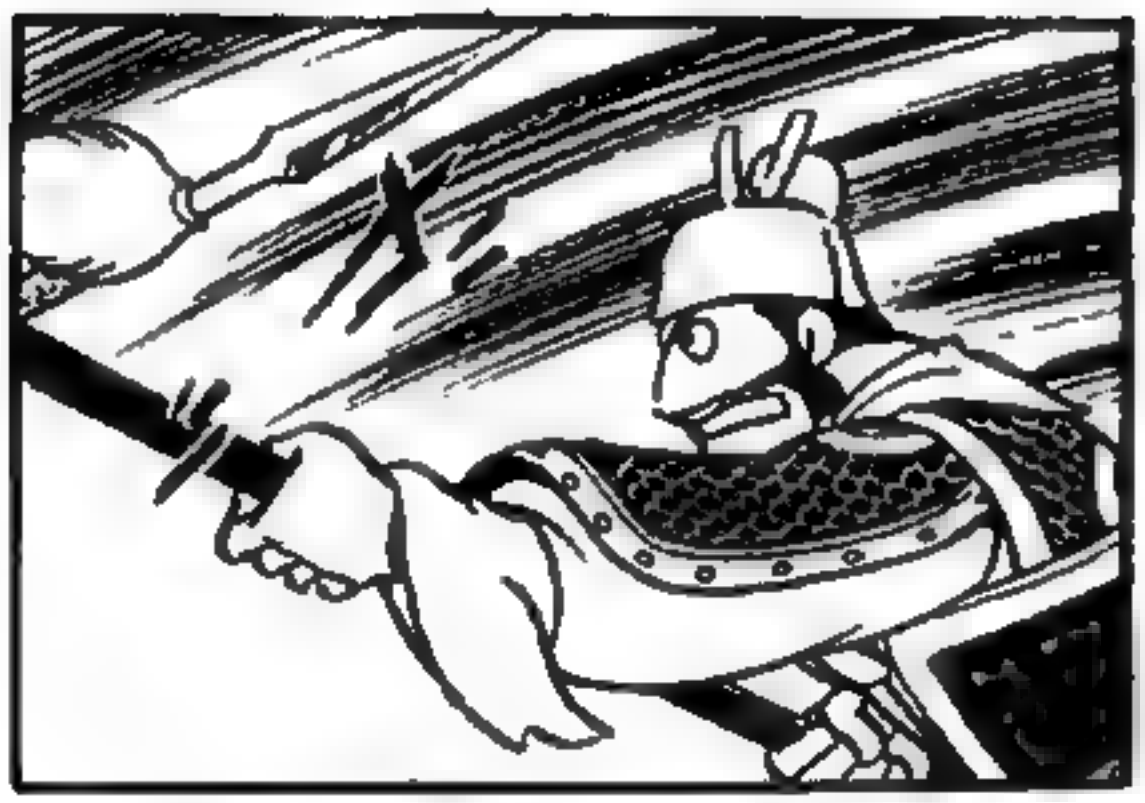


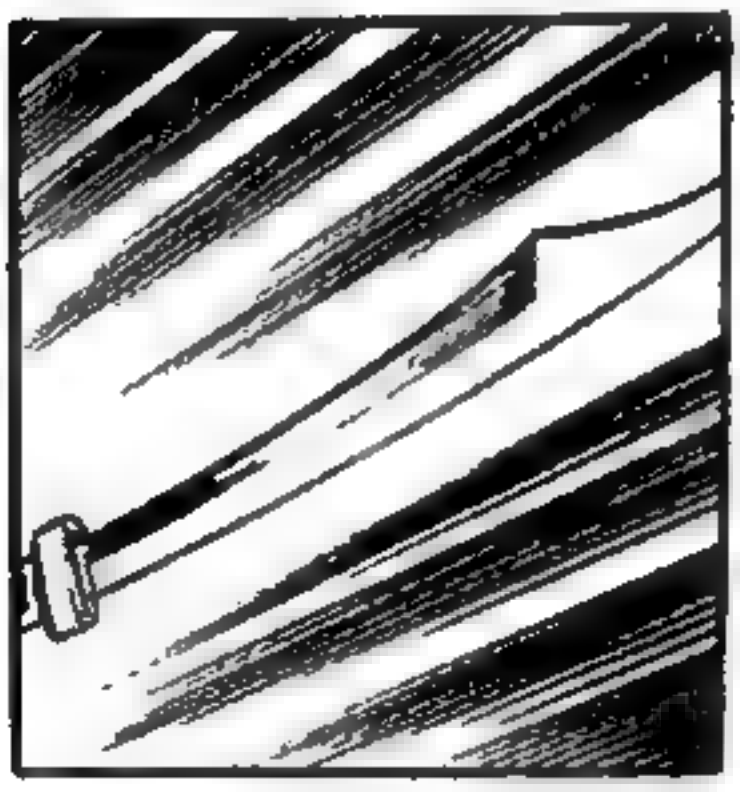


I COULD NOT WISH FOR MORE!

PANG DE, LET US CONTINUE OUR FIGHT FROM THE DAY BEFORE.


ATTACK!





IF I RETURN UNHARMED AGAIN, THERE IS NO SAVING MY HEAD!

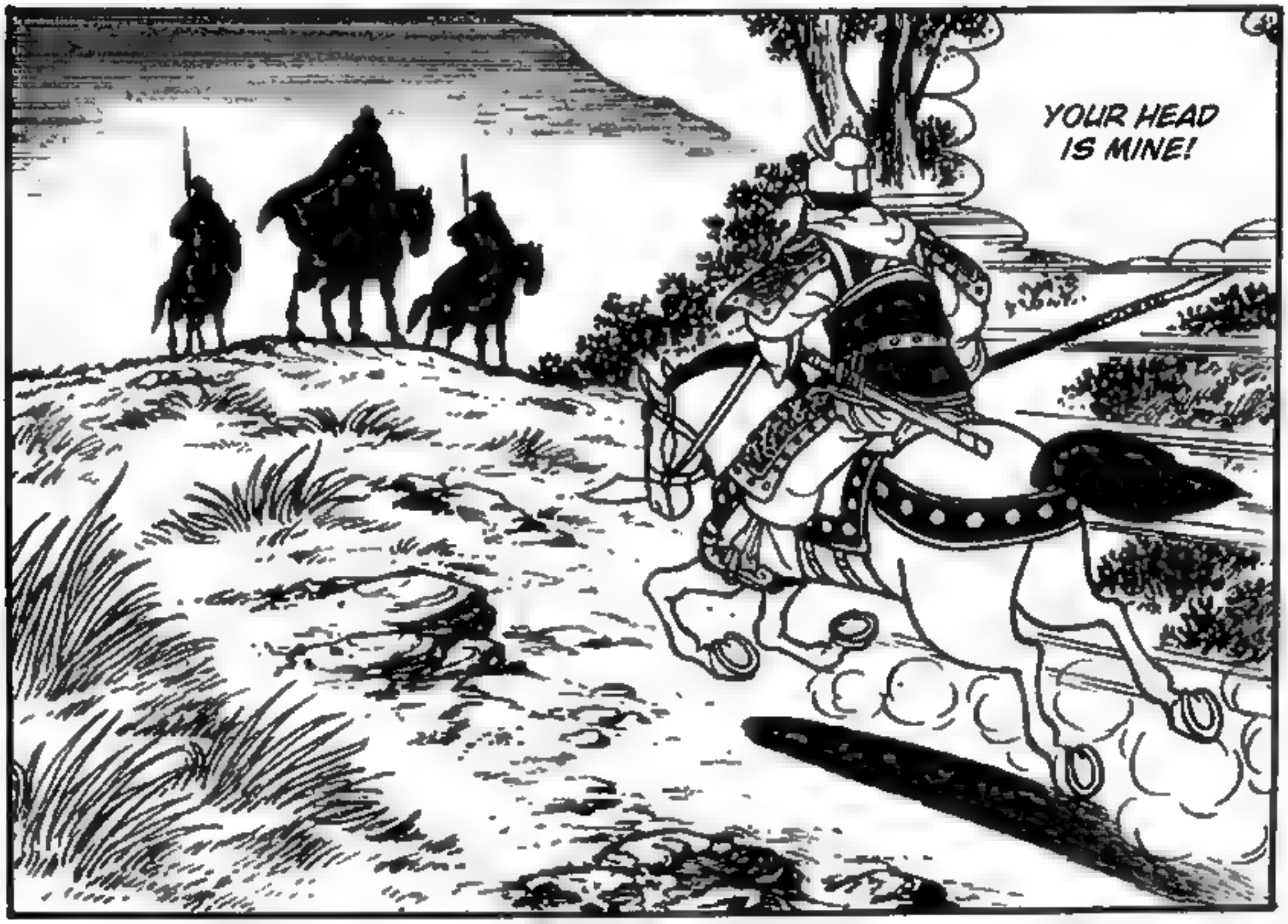
YOU DARE TURN TAIL AFTER ALL THAT TALK!?

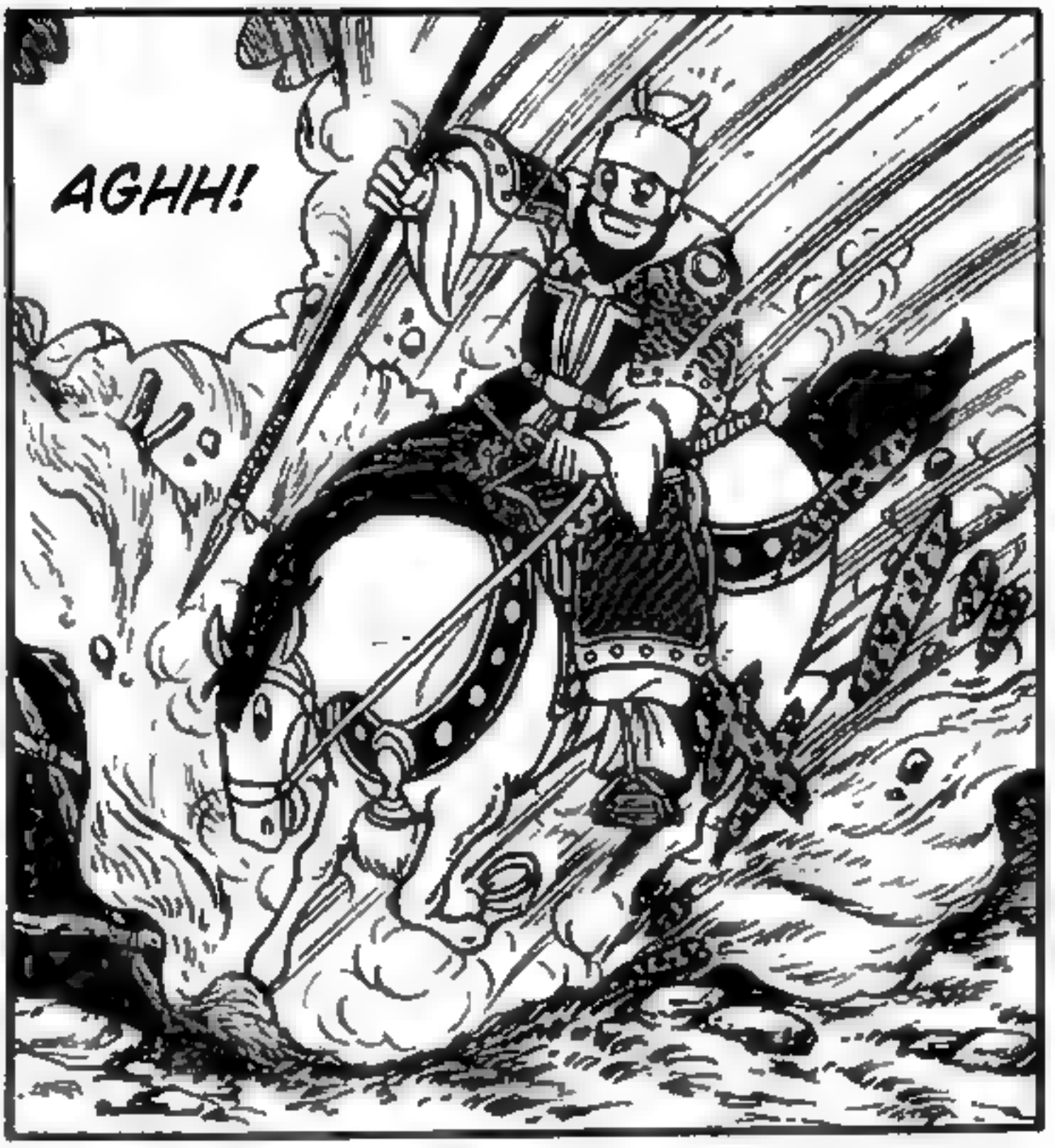
I WILL SETTLE THIS MATCH TODAY WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT!

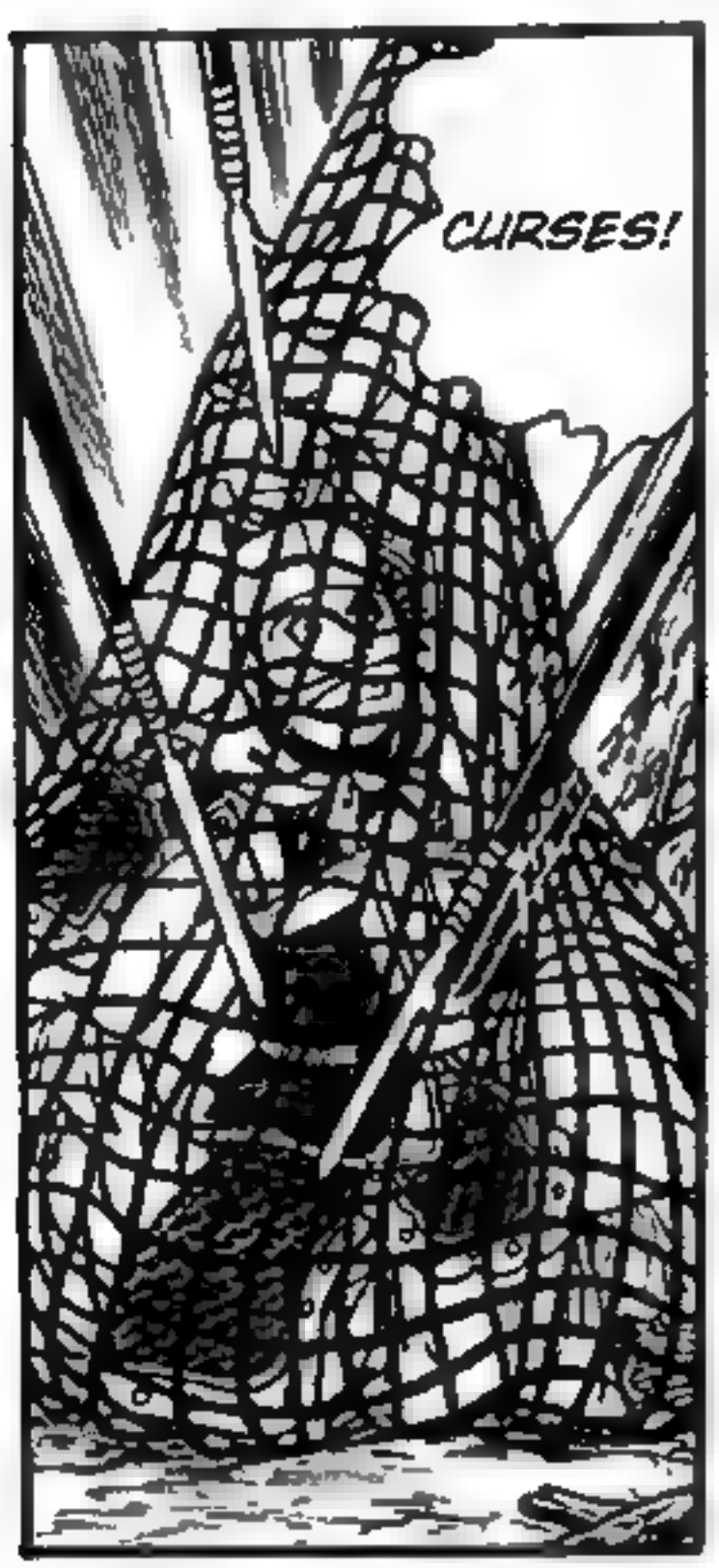
CAO CAO!?

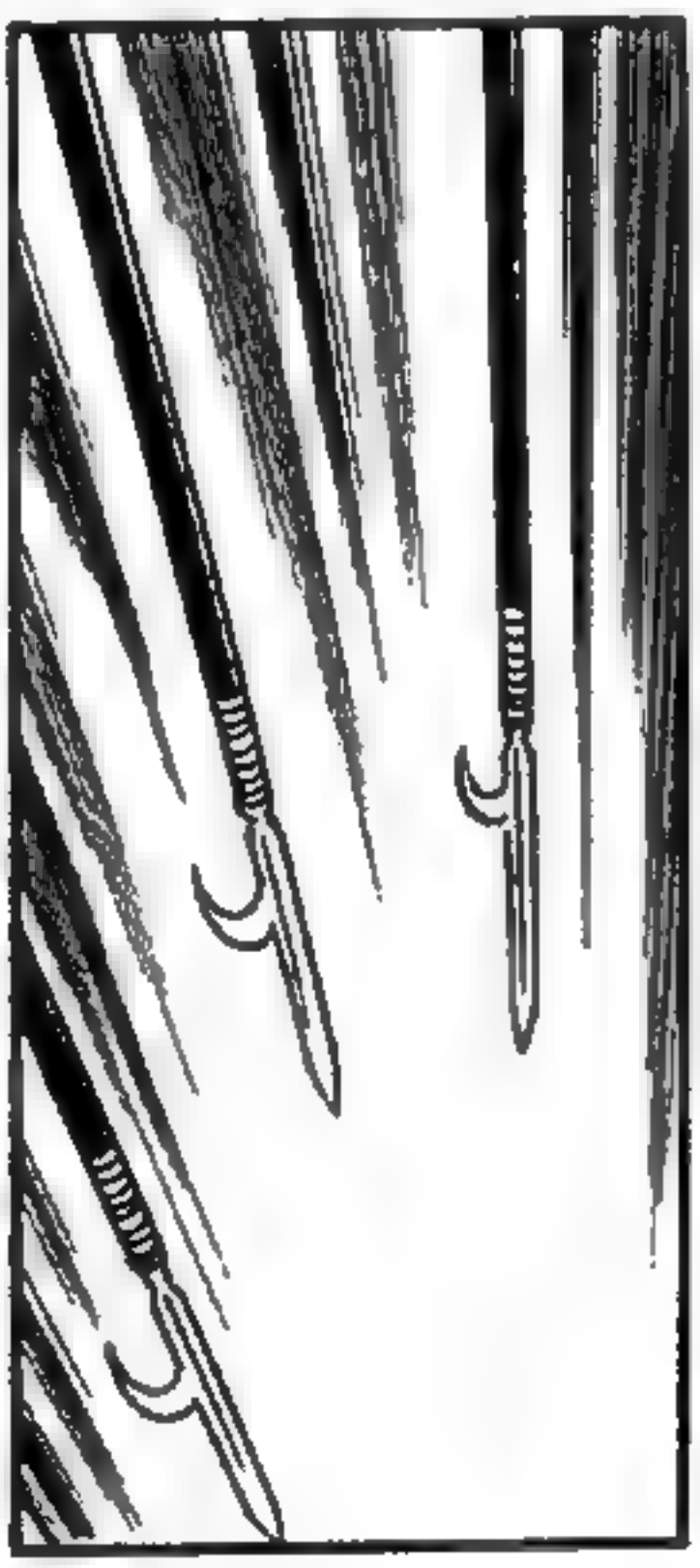
PANG DE! SURRENDER NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

NOW THERE'S A HEAD WORTH MORE THAN A 1000 XU CHUS!

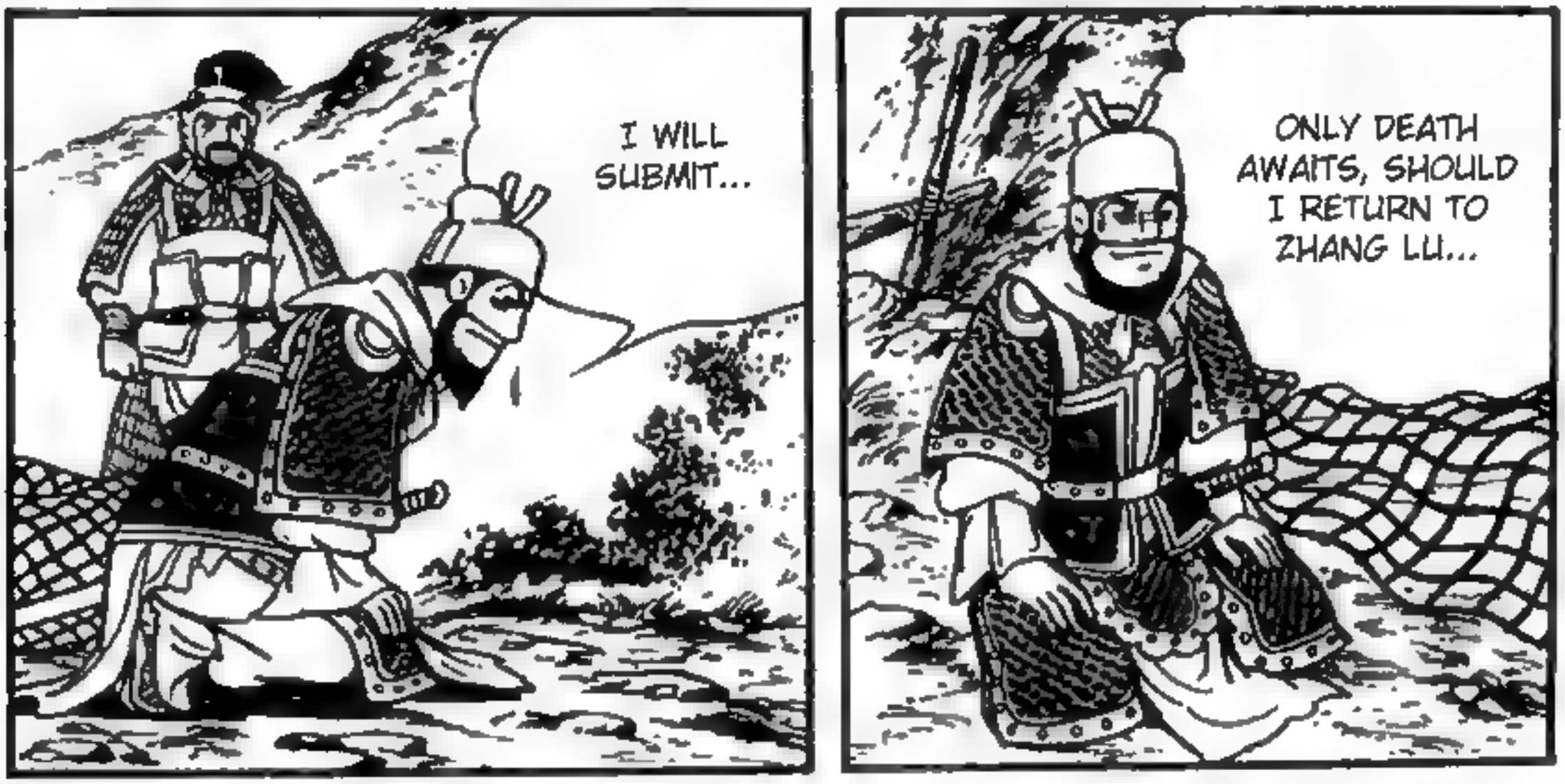

YOUR HEAD IS MINE!


AGHH!


CURSES!



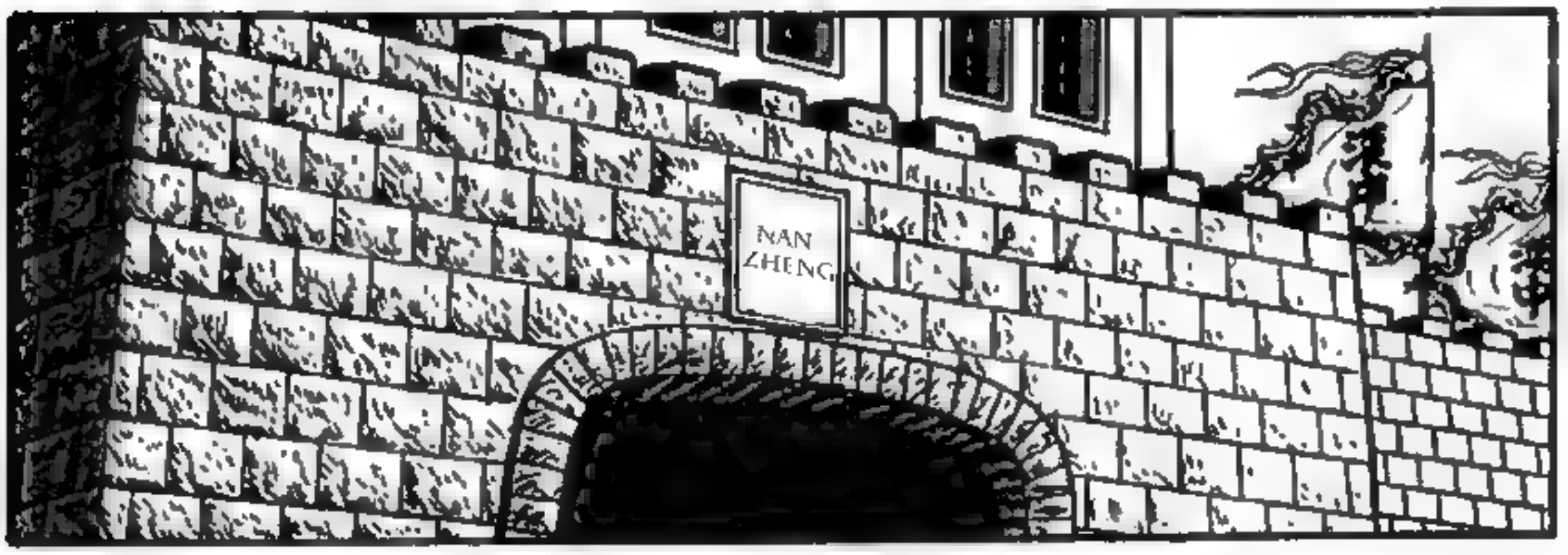
THERE'S NO NEED FOR A GREAT WARRIOR SUCH AS YOU TO RUSH TO A DOG'S DEATH. WILL YOU SUBMIT?
STOP. DO NOT TREAT HIM ROUGHLY.

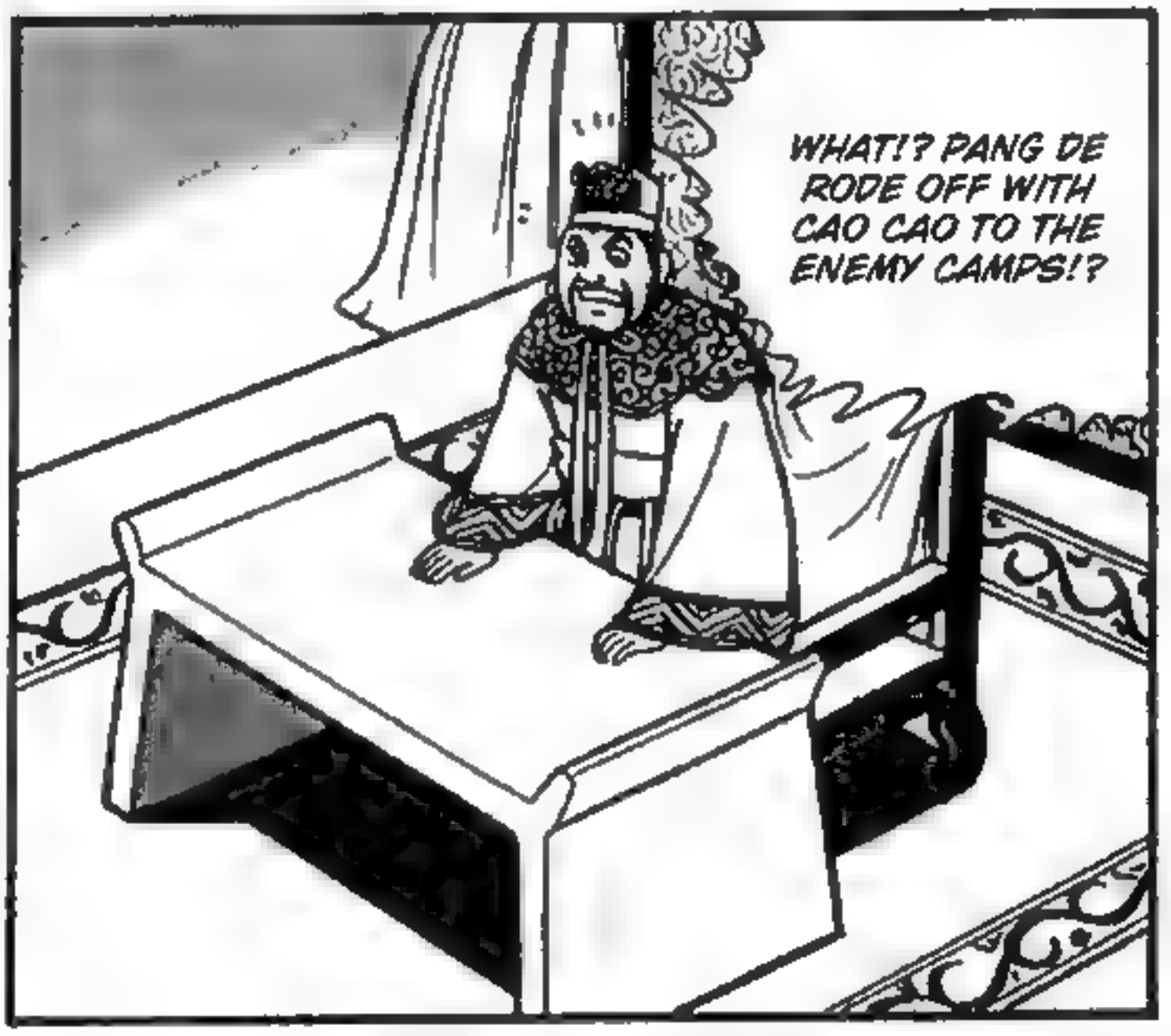

I WILL SUBMIT...
ONLY DEATH AWAITS, SHOULD I RETURN TO ZHANG LU...

SPLENDID. NOW LET US RETURN TO MY BASE.

YOU WILL!?

PACIFICATION OF HANZHONG





BUT LORD PRECEPTOR! DOING SO IS TO GIVE ALL THE RICE AND GRAINS FREELY TO CAO CAO!

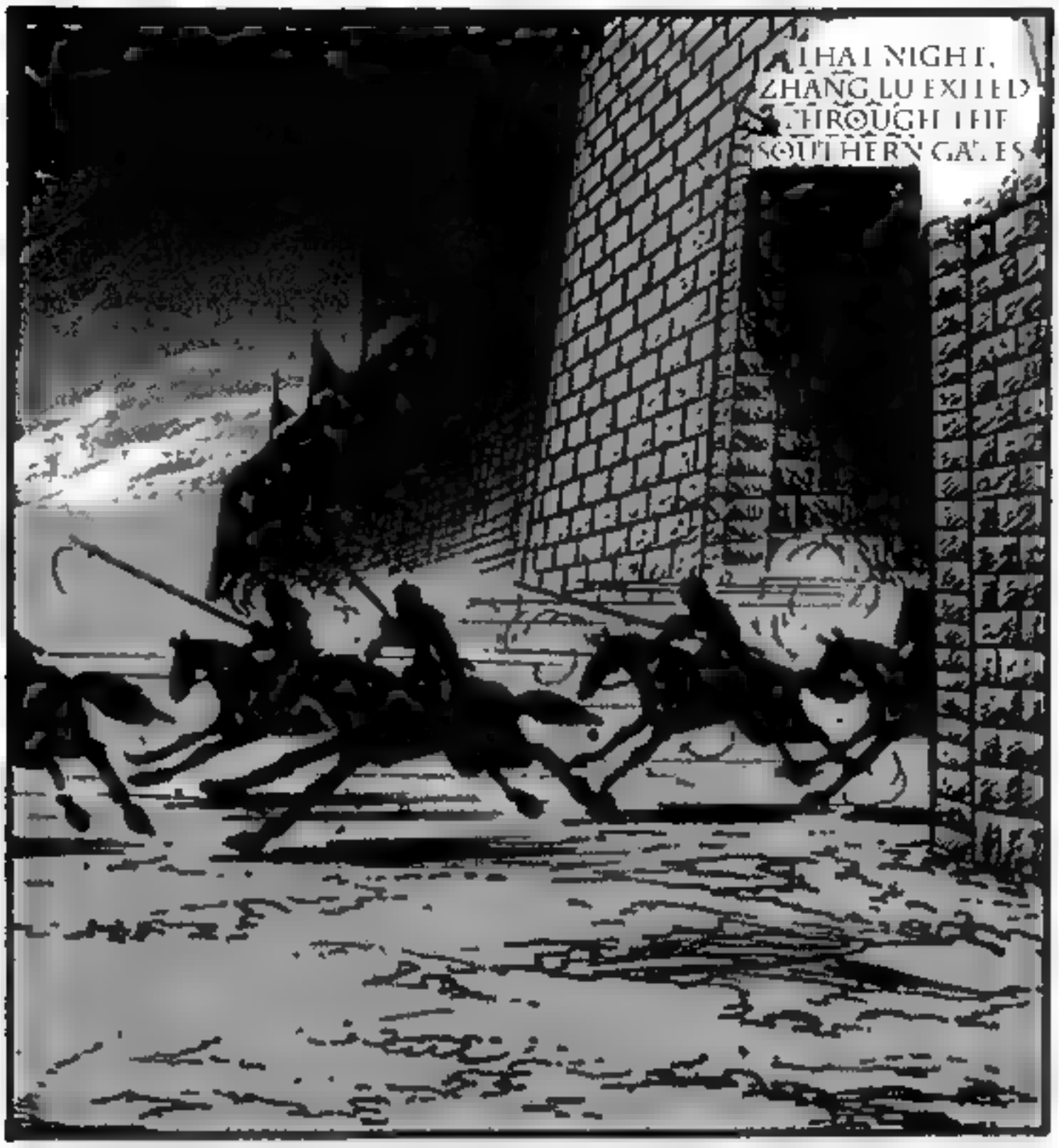
I AGREE TO WITHDRAWING TO BAZHONG BUT I CANNOT AGREE TO BURN OUR SUPPLIES HERE.

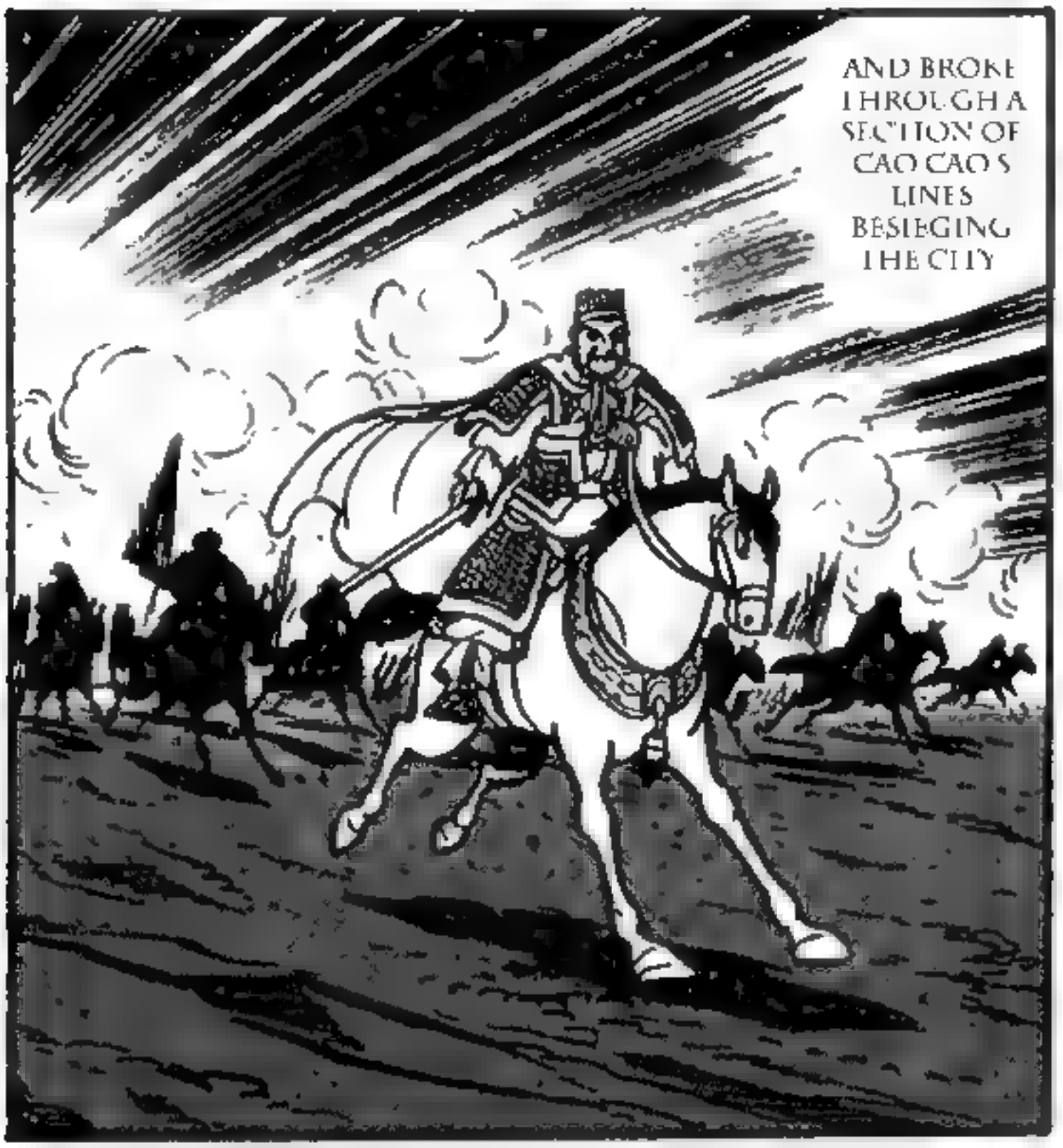
LOCK THE GRANA-RIES.

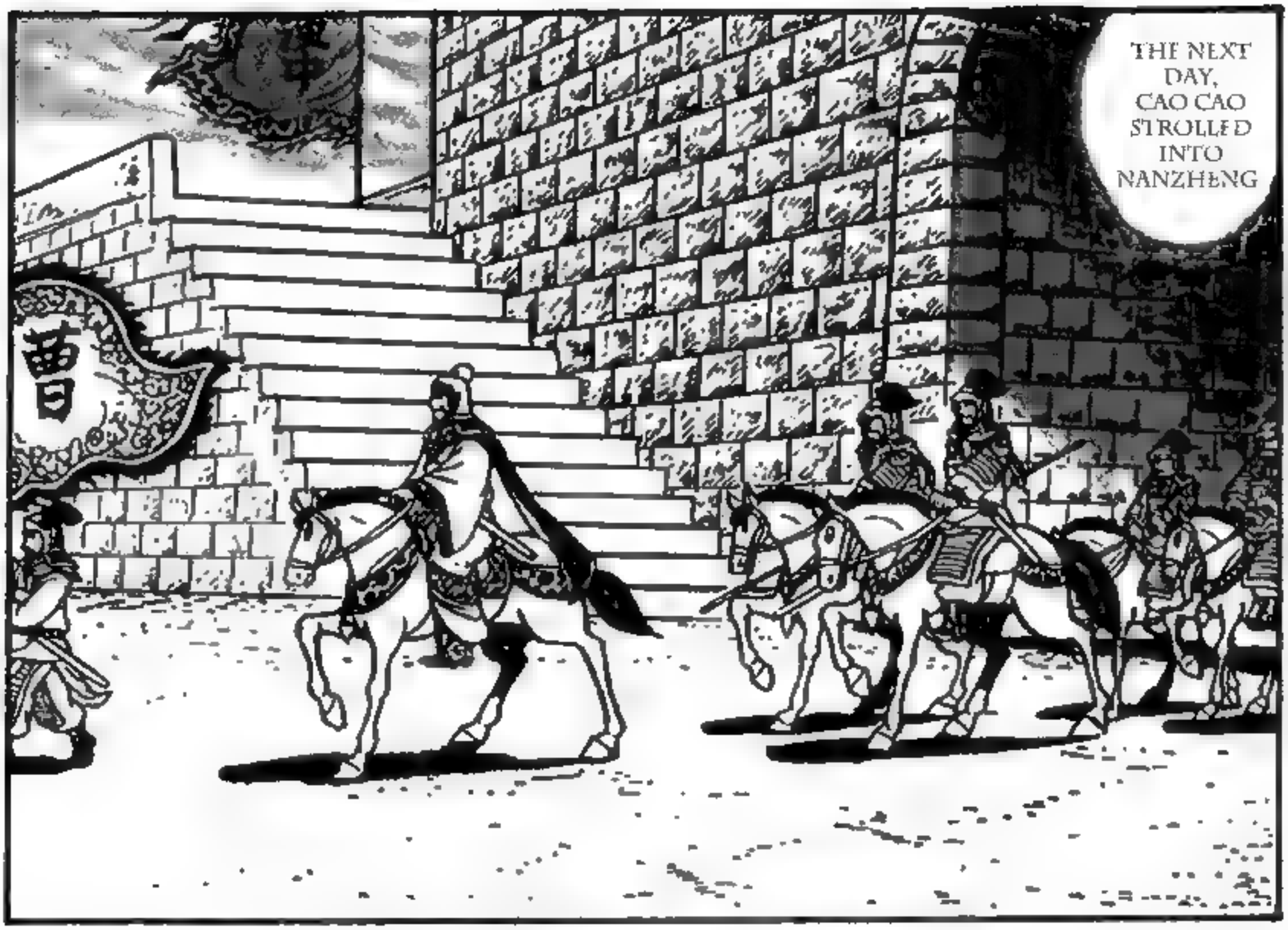
CROPS ARE A GIFT OF THE HEAVENS. AS THE RULER OF HANZHONG AND THE THIRD GENERATION LEADER OF THE TAOIST CELESTIAL MASTERS, I CANNOT BURN WHAT HEAVEN HAS BESTOWED UPON ME.

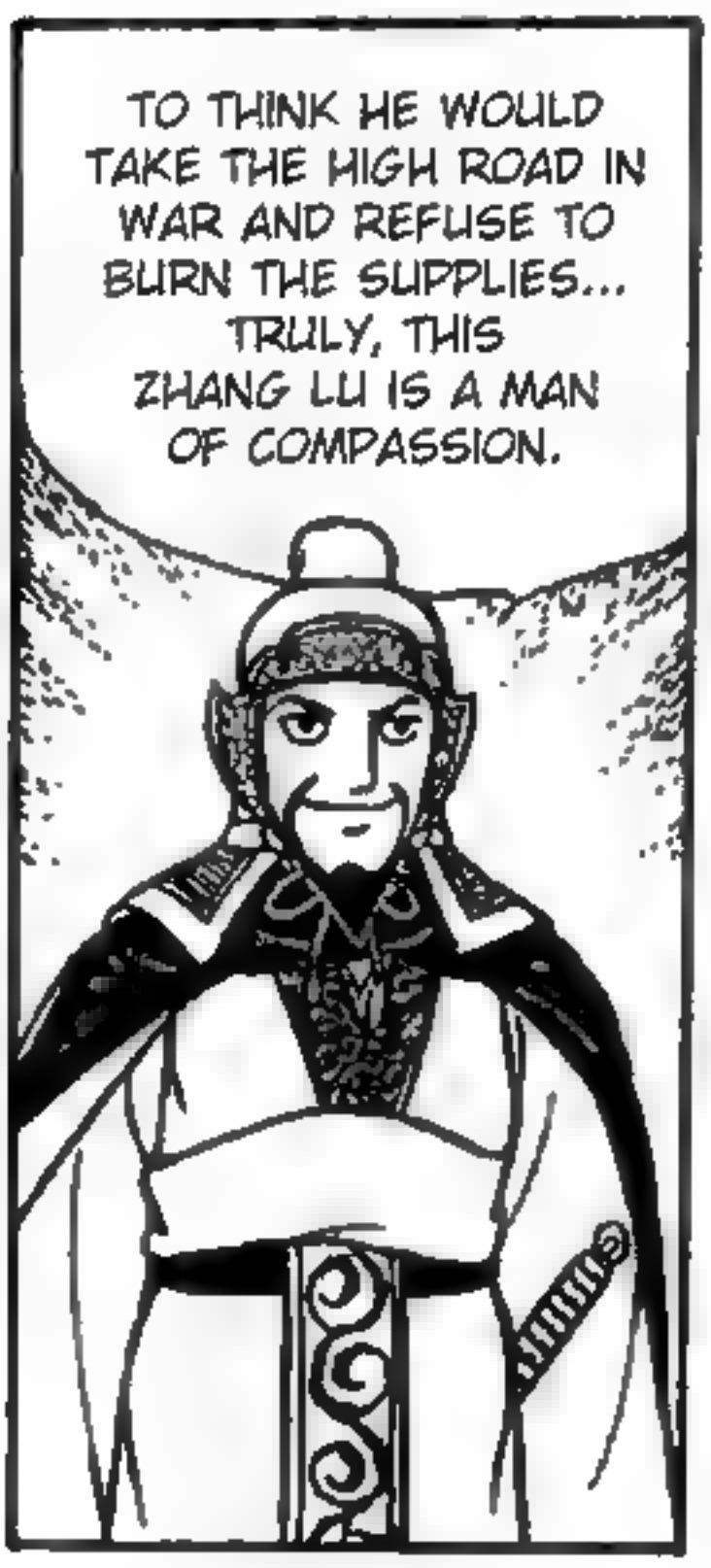
WE WILL FLEE TO BAZHONG TONIGHT.

NO, SIR.
NO, SIR.
ANY OBJEC-TIONS?

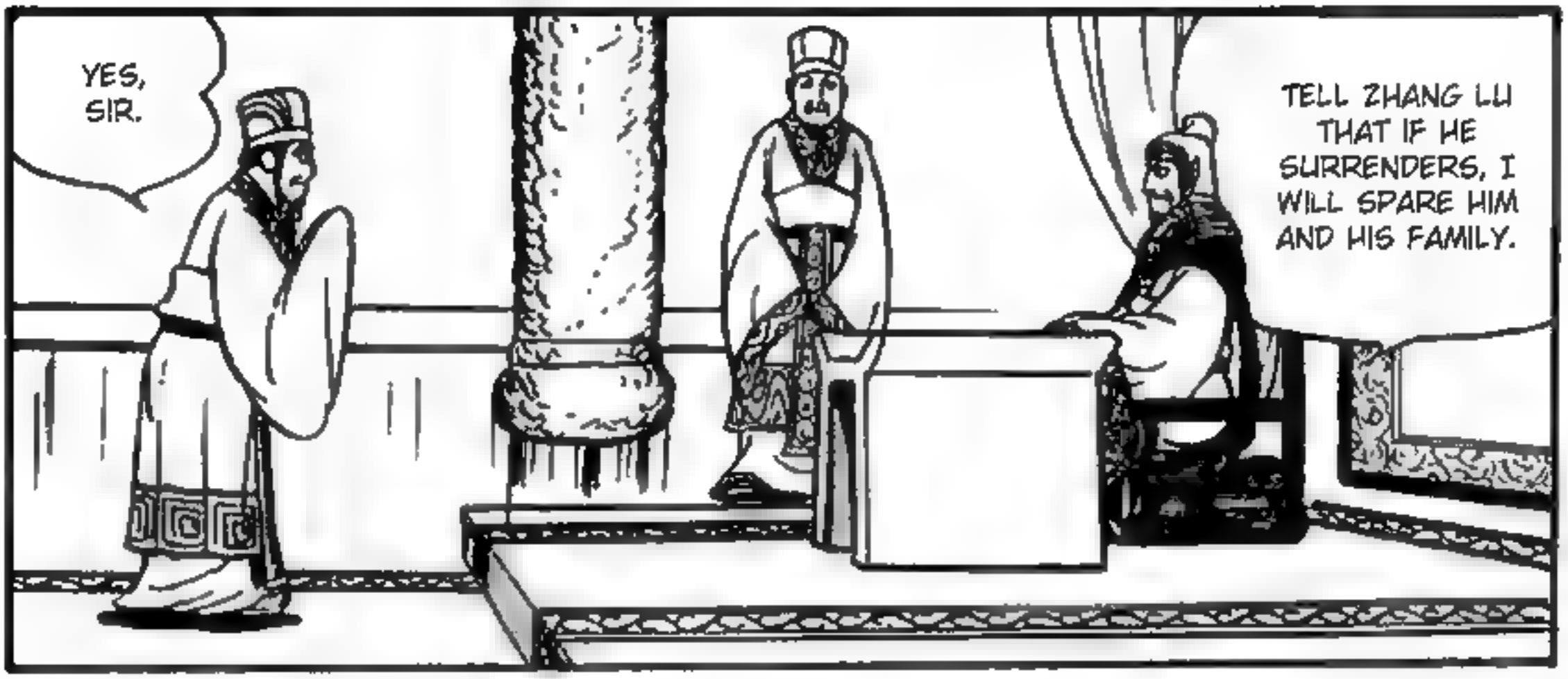

THAT NIGHT, ZHANG LU EXITED THROUGH THE SOUTHERN GATES

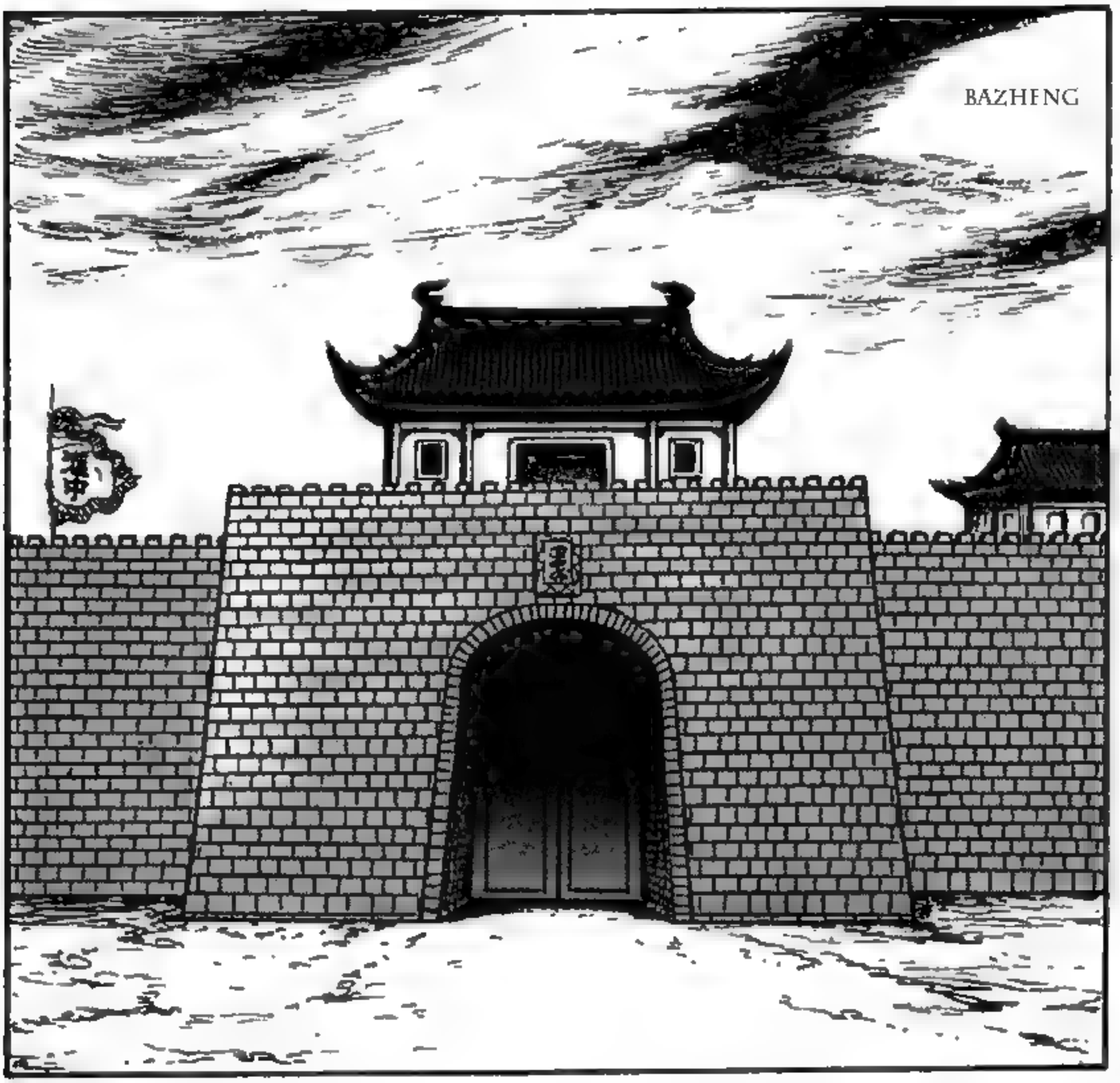

AND BROKE THROUGH A SECTION OF CAO CAO'S LINES BESIEGING THE CITY


THE NEXT DAY, CAO CAO STROLLED INTO NANZHENG


TO THINK HE WOULD TAKE THE HIGH ROAD IN WAR AND REFUSE TO BURN THE SUPPLIES... TRULY, THIS ZHANG LU IS A MAN OF COMPASSION.

YES, SIR.
THE GRANARIES WERE MERELY LOCKED!?


YES, SIR.
TELL ZHANG LU THAT IF HE SURRENDERS, I WILL SPARE HIM AND HIS FAMILY.


BAZHENG

WHAT DID CAO CAO WRITE?

HMM...

HE PROMISES TO SPARE MY FAMILY AND I IF I SURRENDER.

BROTHER, WE CANNOT JUST SURRENDER LIKE THIS!

I, ZHANG WEI, AM STILL HERE!

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO TO SAVE HANZHONG.

WELL, THAT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT!?

.....

HMM, WHAT TO DO...

YES, SIR.

A LETTER FROM YANG SONG?

曹

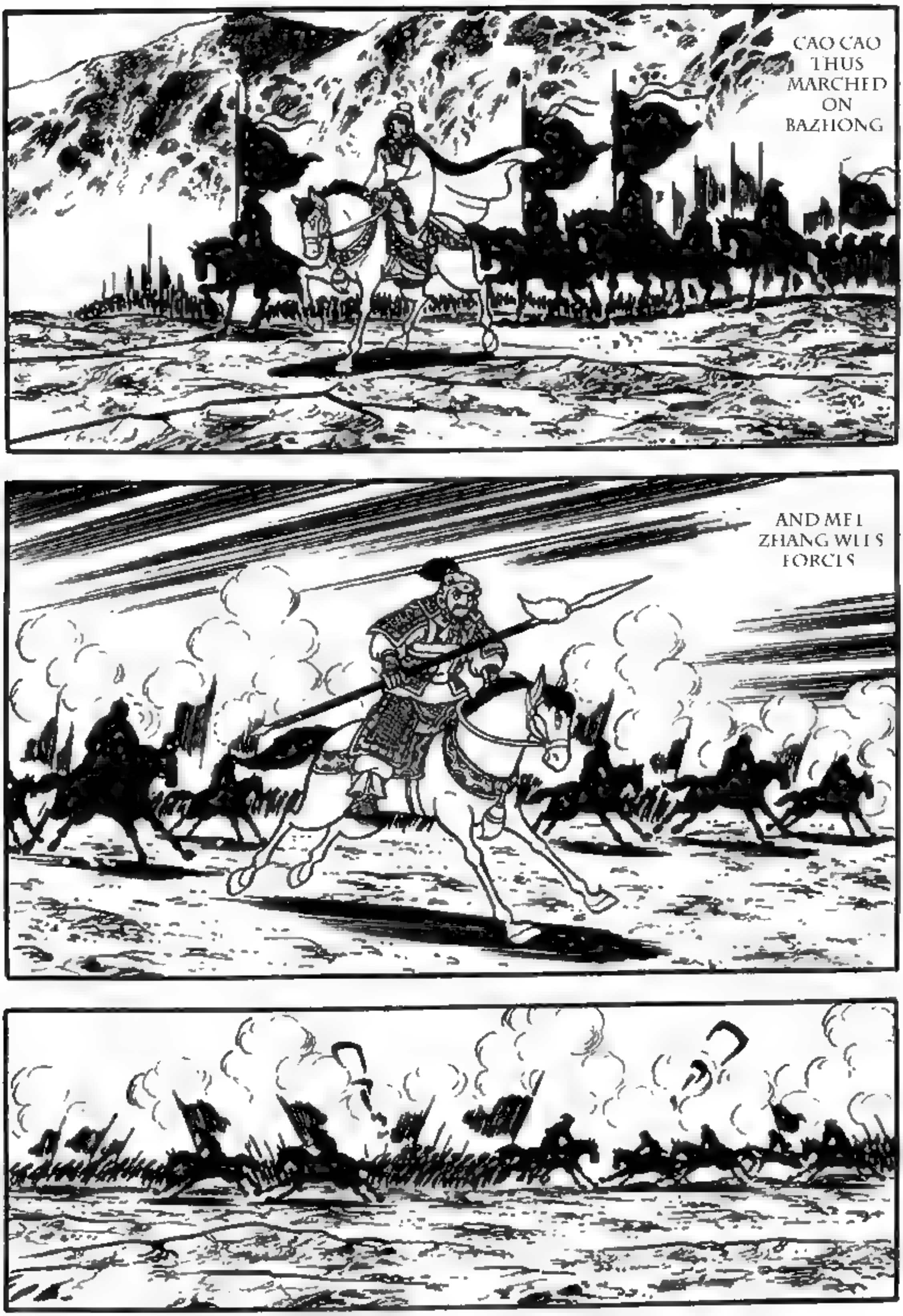
WHAT DID HE WRITE?

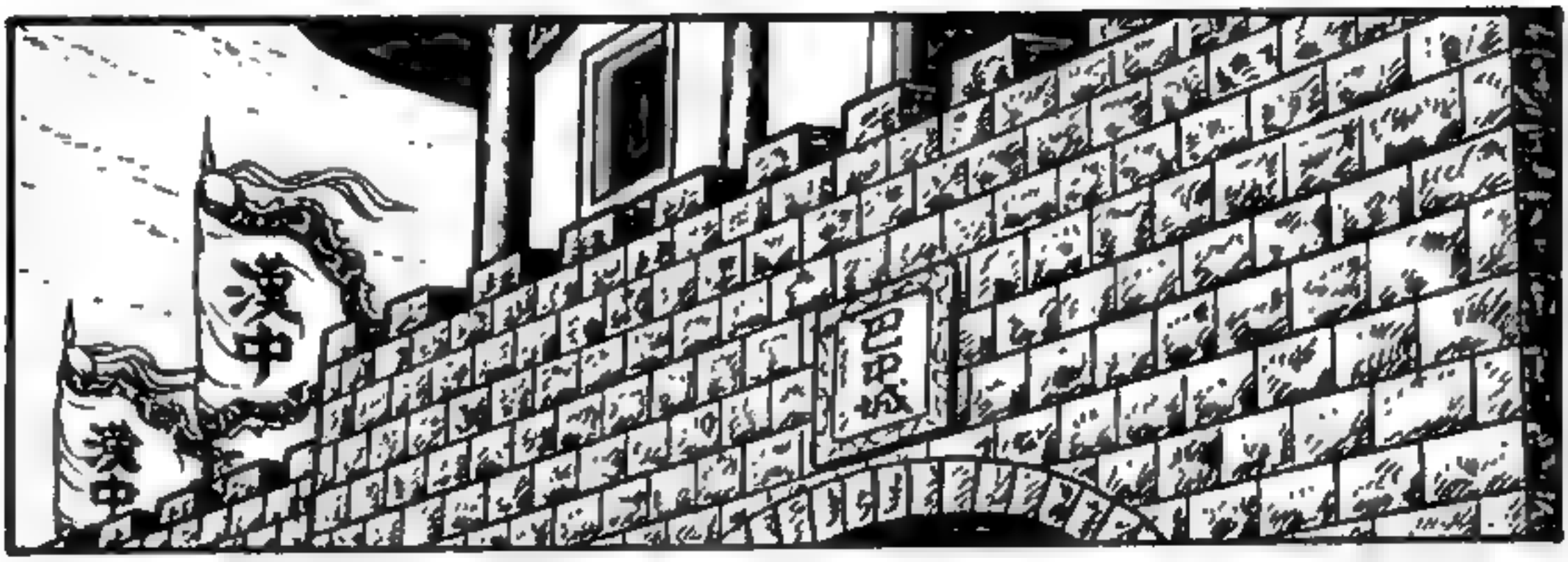
HM...

YES.

THEN LET US MOVE FORTH AT ONCE.

ZHANG LU IS HESISTATING ON WHETHER TO SURRENDER. YANG SONG PROMISES TO HELP US FROM WITHIN IF WE ADVANCE ON BAZHONG.

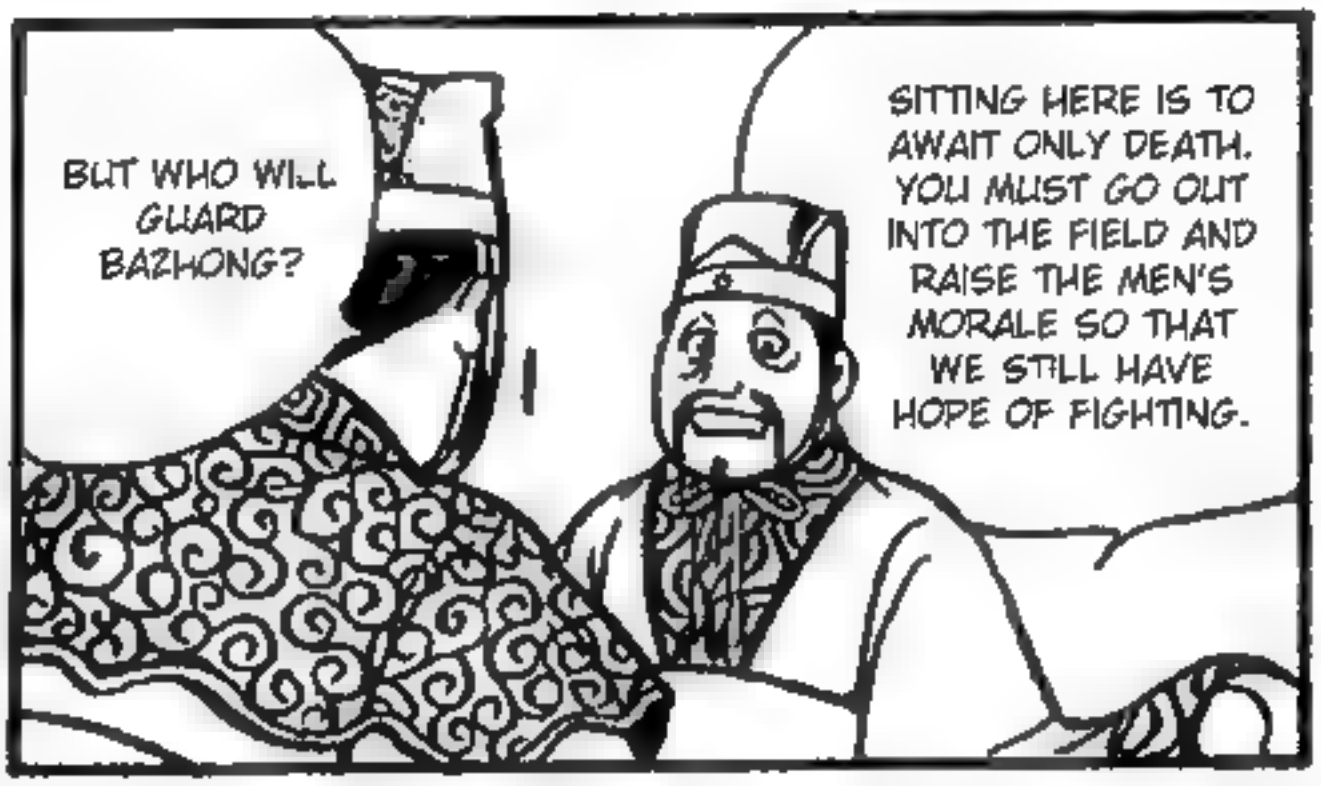

CAO CAO
THUS
MARCHED
ON
BAZHONG
AND MEI
ZHANG WEI'S
FORCES

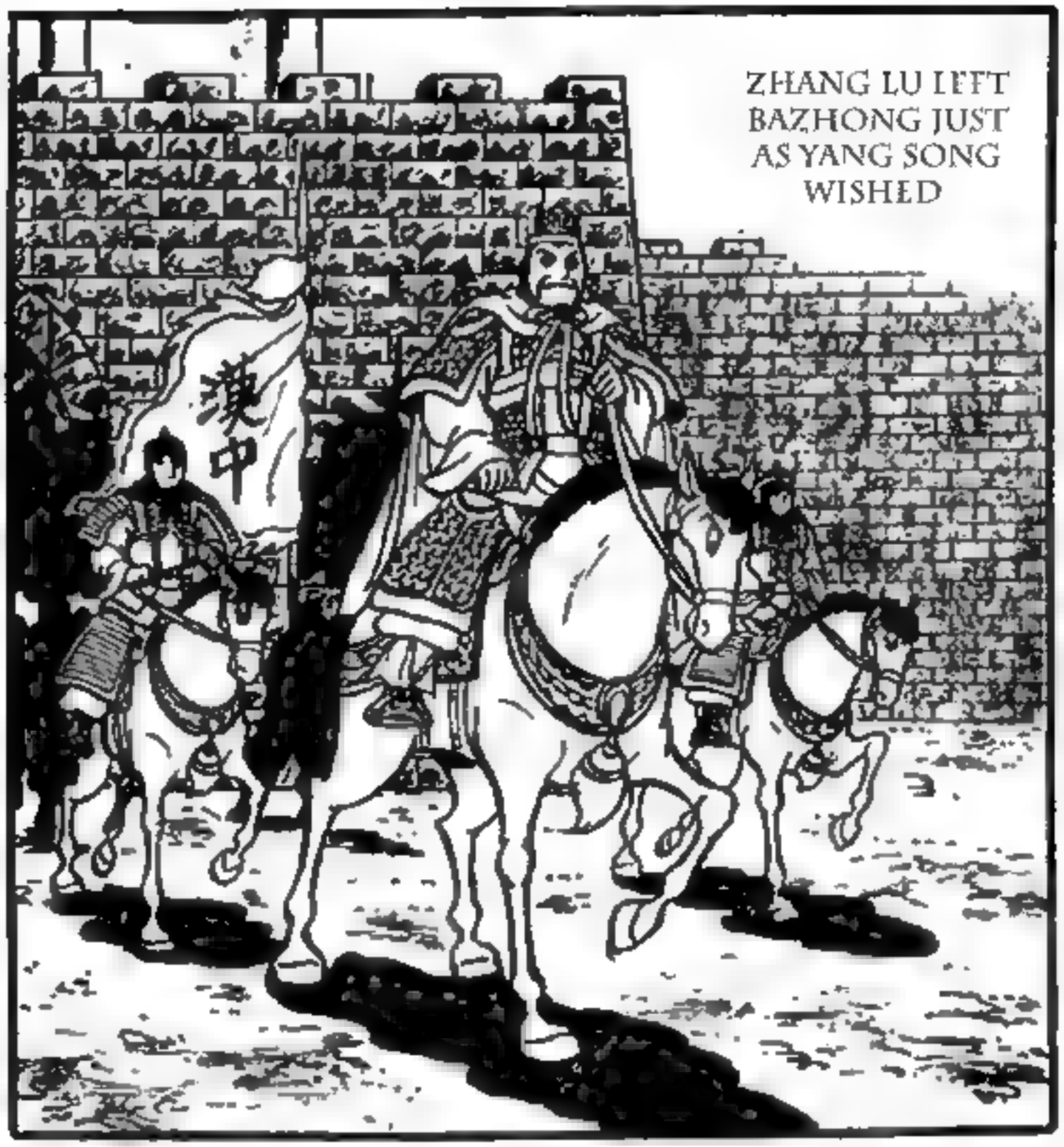

漢中
漢中
巴中城

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE FIT TO LEAD THE ARMY NOW, SIR.

YES, OUR FORCES CRUMBLED AS SOON AS OUR GENERAL DIED.
ZHANG WEI WAS SLAIN BY XU CHU!?

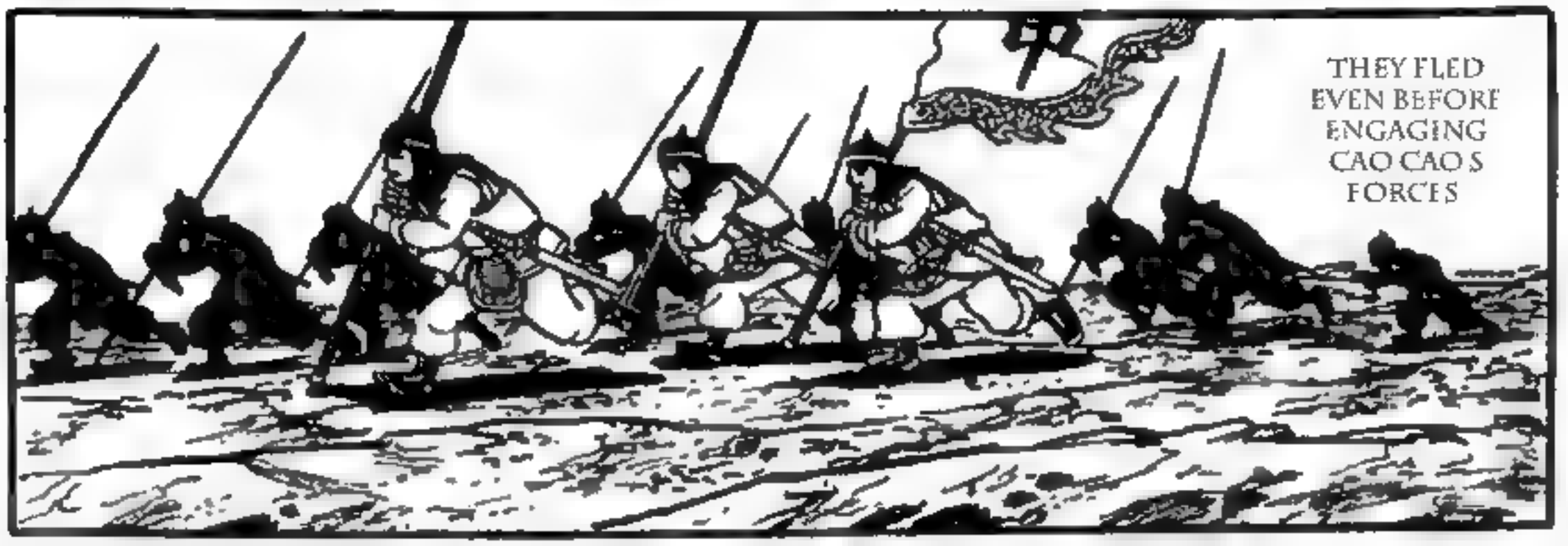
LEAVE THAT TO ME, SIR.


BUT WHO WILL GUARD BAZHONG?
SITTING HERE IS TO AWAIT ONLY DEATH. YOU MUST GO OUT INTO THE FIELD AND RAISE THE MEN'S MORALE SO THAT WE STILL HAVE HOPE OF FIGHTING.


ZHANG LU LEFT BAZHONG JUST AS YANG SONG WISHED
漢中

THEN IT'S SETTLED! I SHALL GO FORTH!

THE TROOPS OF HANZHONG ALREADY LOST THEIR WILL TO FIGHT BY THEN
漢中


THEY FLED EVEN BEFORE ENGAGING CAO CAO S FORCES

RETREAT!
RETREAT!

WE CAN'T FIGHT LIKE THIS! WE MUST RETURN TO BAZHONG!

CAN YOU NOT HEAR ME!? WHY WON'T YOU OPEN THE GATES!?

THIS IS ZHANG LU! OPEN THE GATES!

YANG SONG WILL NO LONGER LISTEN TO YOUR ORDERS, ZHANG LU.

YANG SONG! OPEN THE GATES THIS INSTANT!

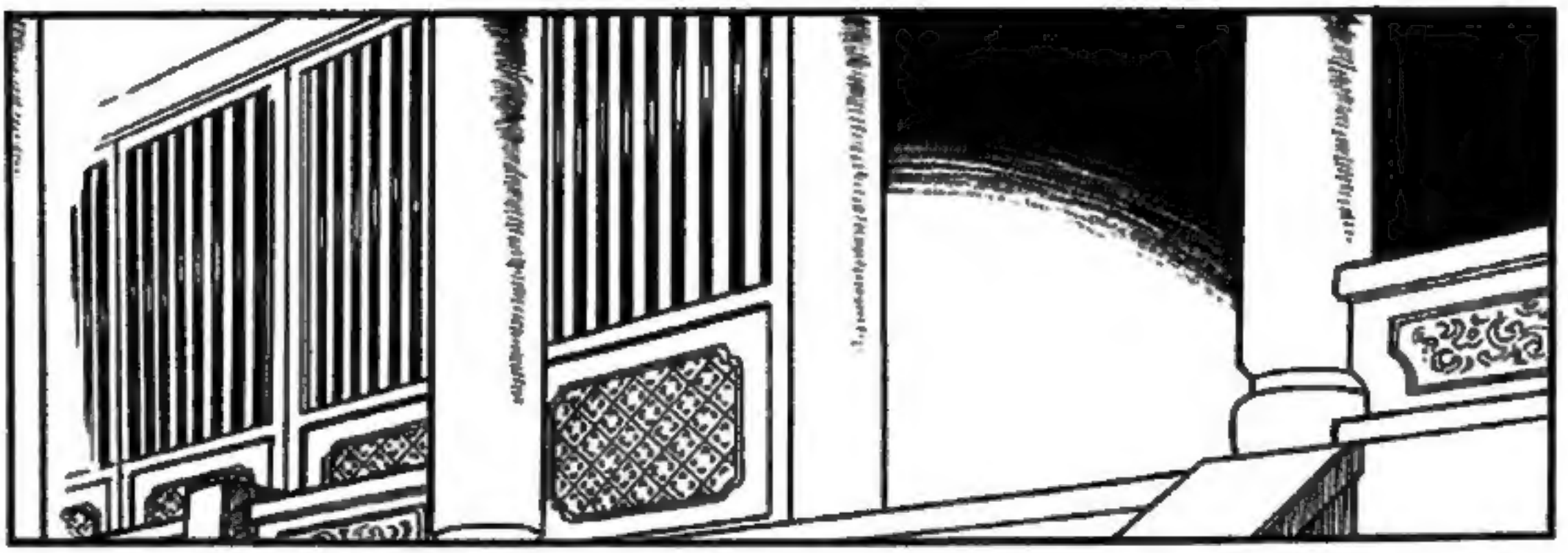
YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY MEANS OF FIGHTING.

YES, HE SOLD YOU OUT TO ME.

漢中

Y-YOU MEAN...

YES, I SUBMIT...
WILL YOU SUBMIT?
WHA!?
AS PROMISED, I WILL SPARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. I ALSO APPOINT YOU AS THE "GENERAL WHO GUARDS THE SOUTH."
EXCELLENT. YOU WERE VERY COMMENDABLE IN REFUSING TO BURN YOUR SUPPLIES AT NANZHENG.
TREATING ZHANG LU KINDLY, CAO CAO RODE INTO BAZHONG.

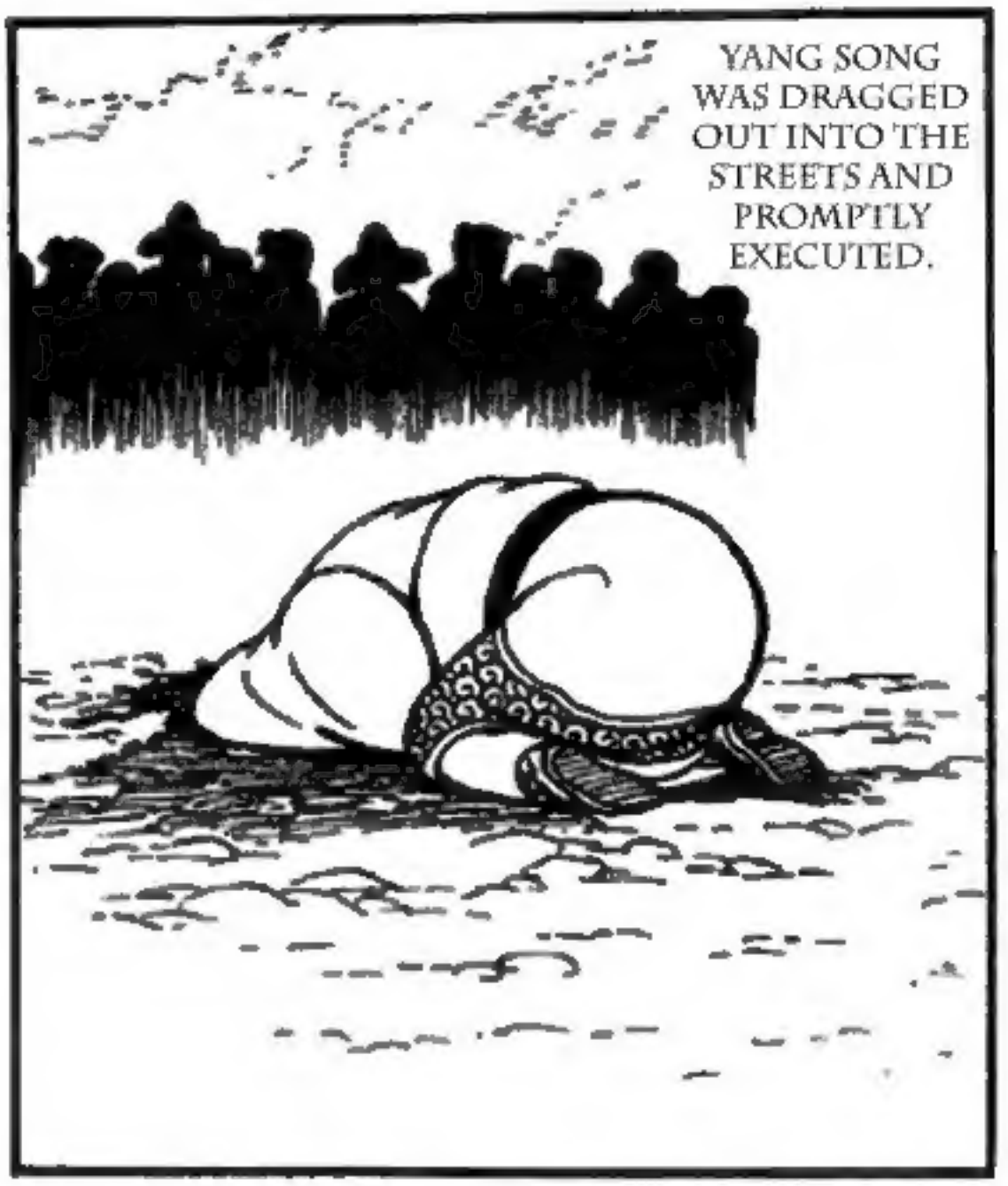


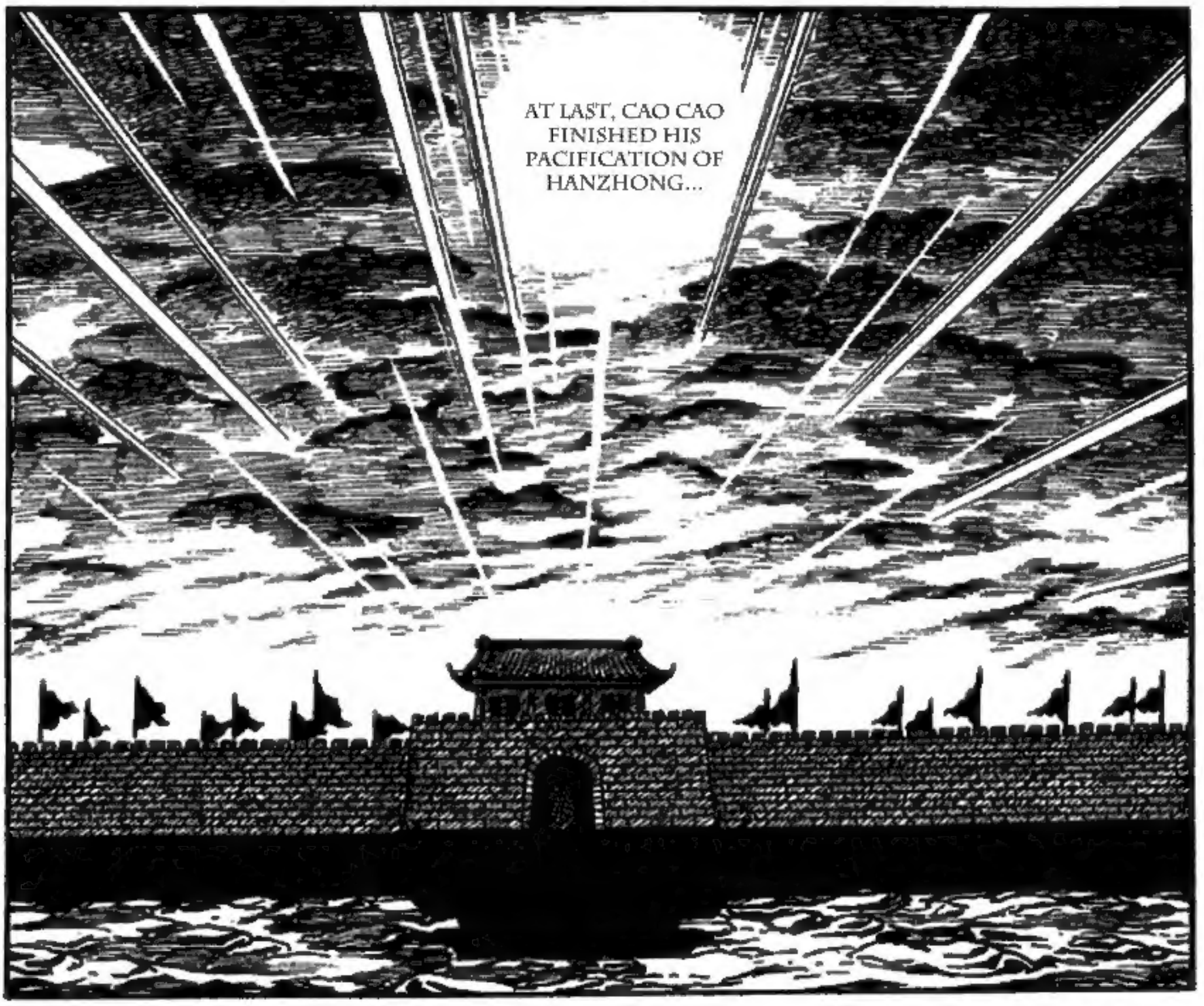
I CANNOT FORGIVE YOU FOR SELLING OUT YOUR LORD FOR YOUR OWN SELFISH GAINS.

YES, SIR.
ARE YOU YANG SONG?

WHAT!?

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!





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